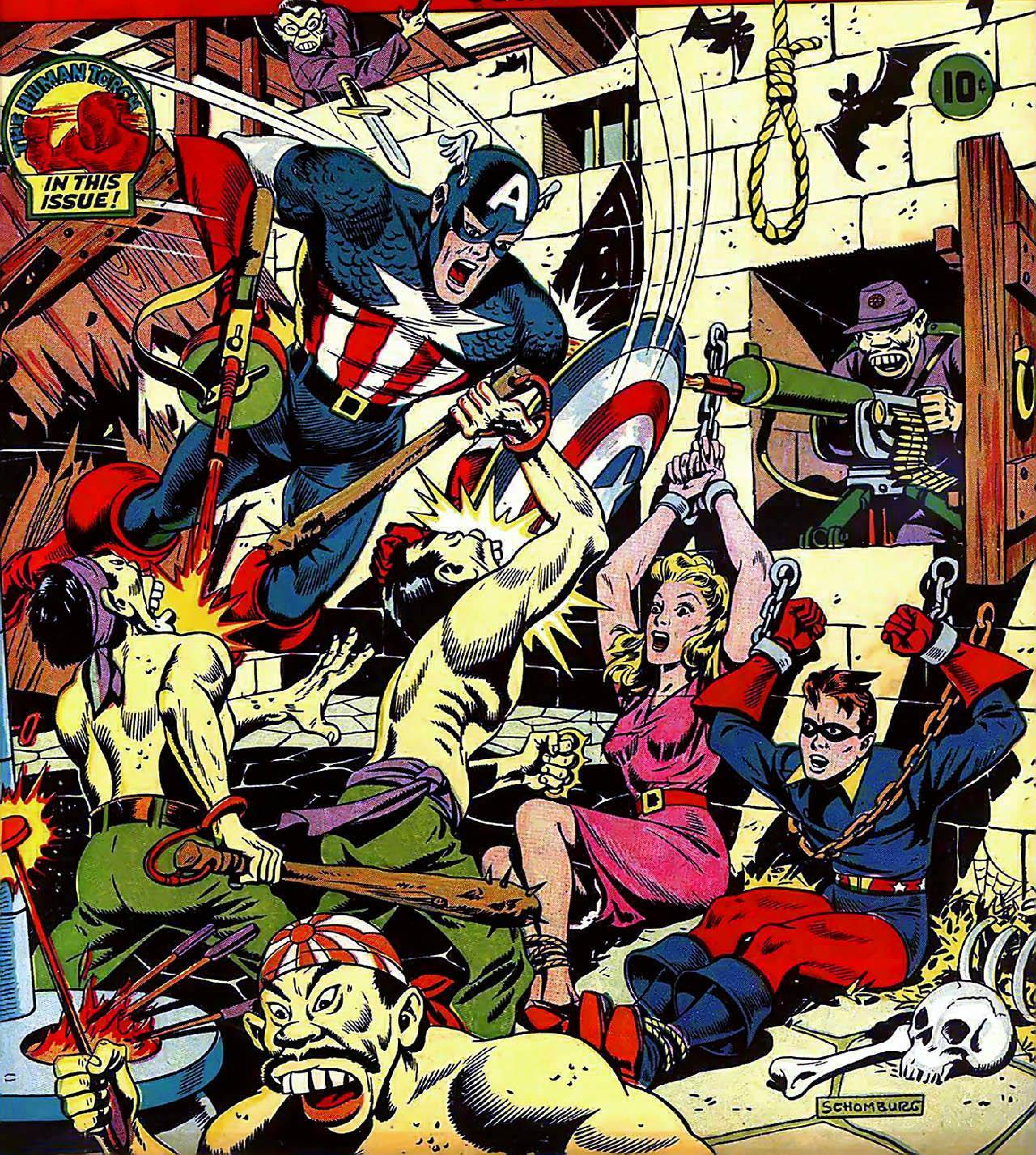
CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS

NO. 38
MAY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THE HUMAN TORCH IN THIS ISSUE!
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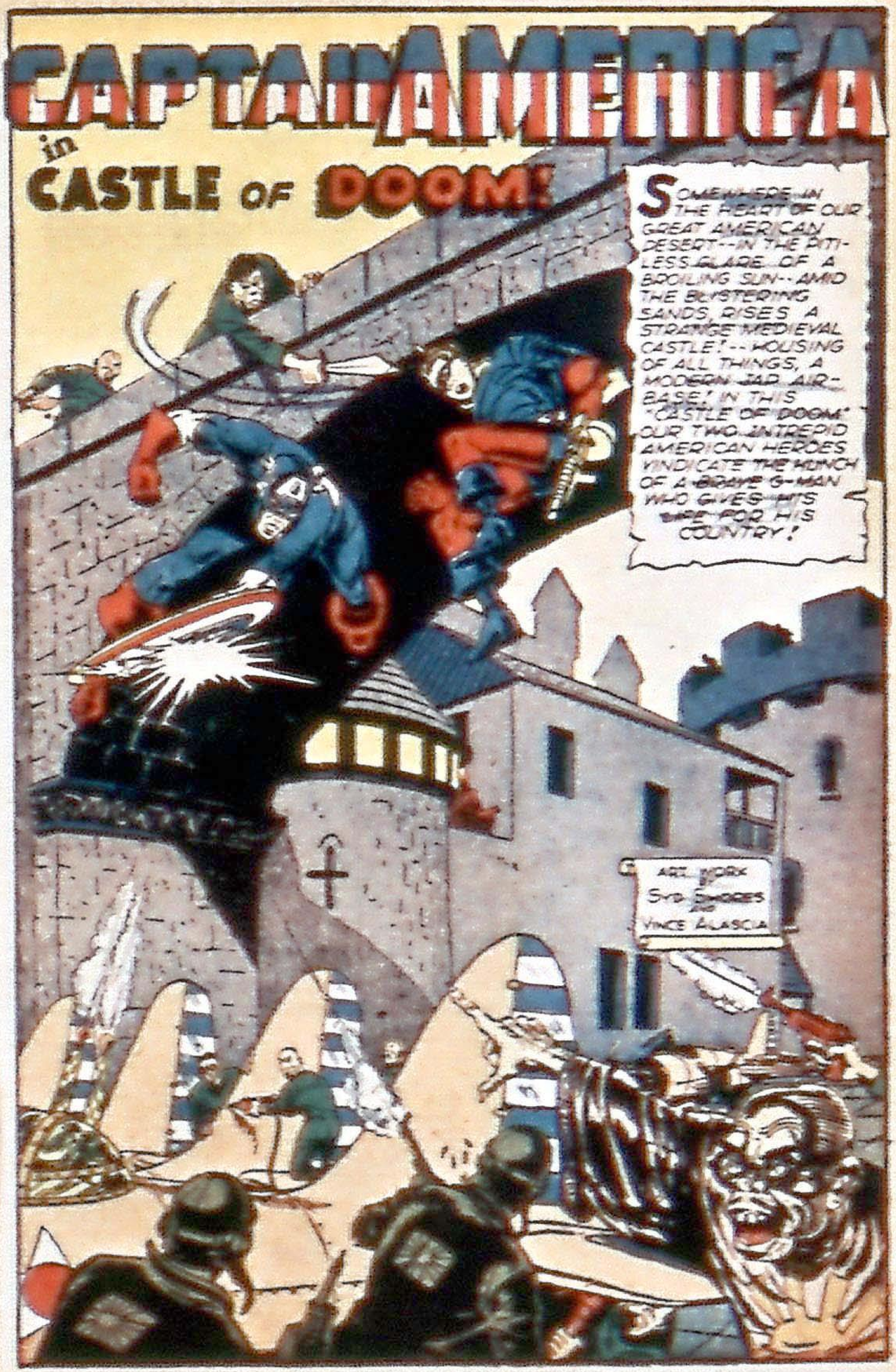
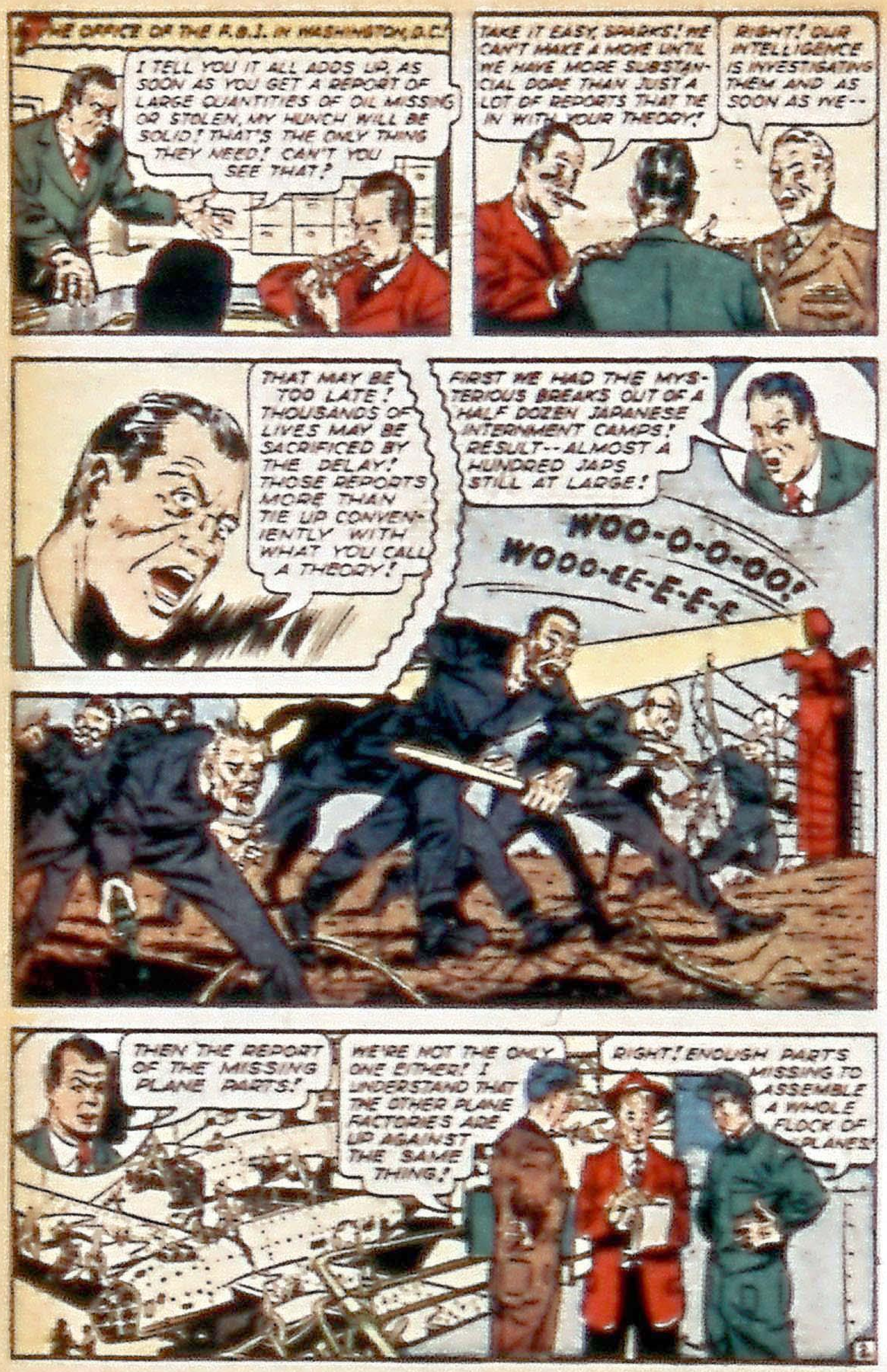
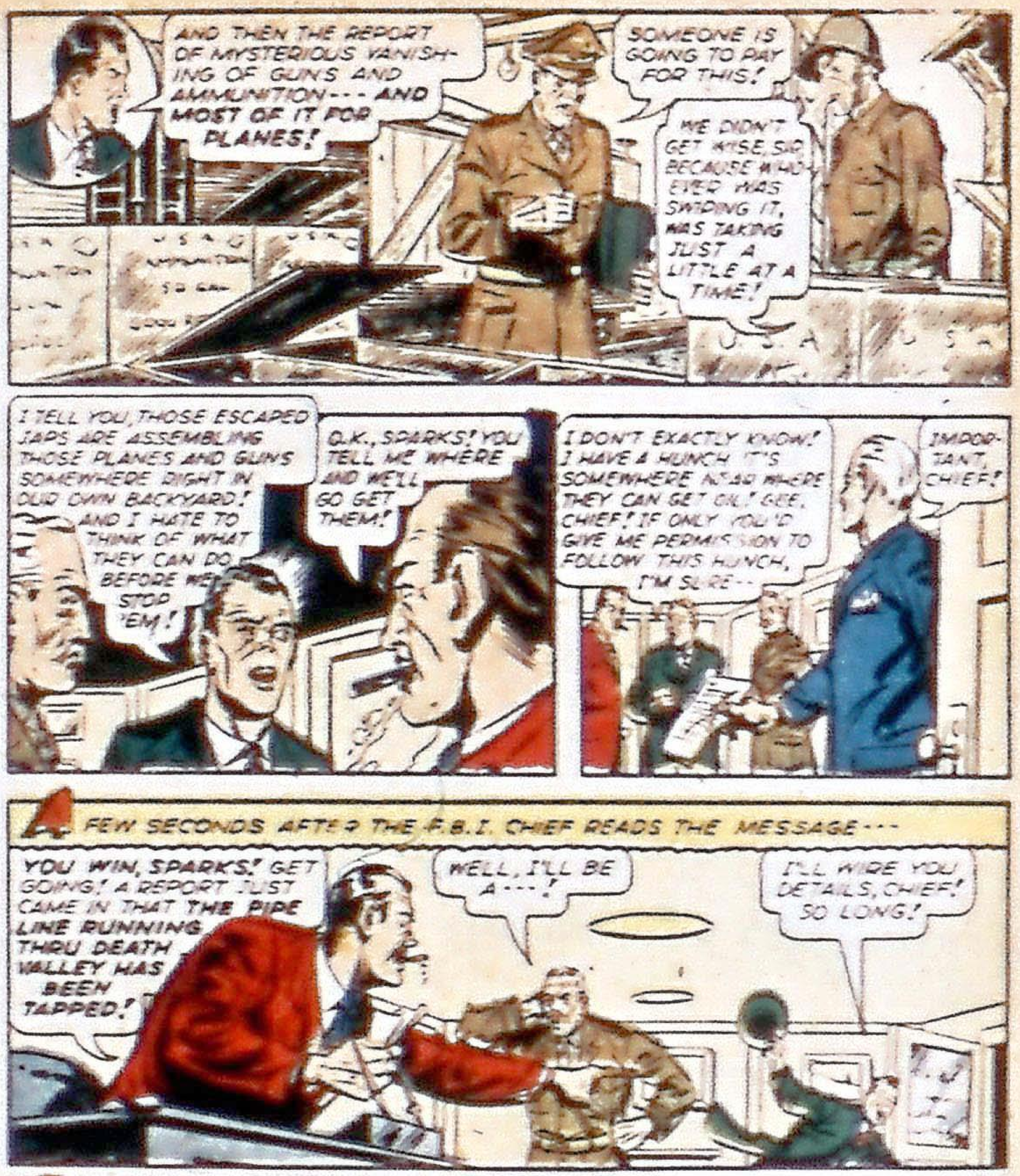
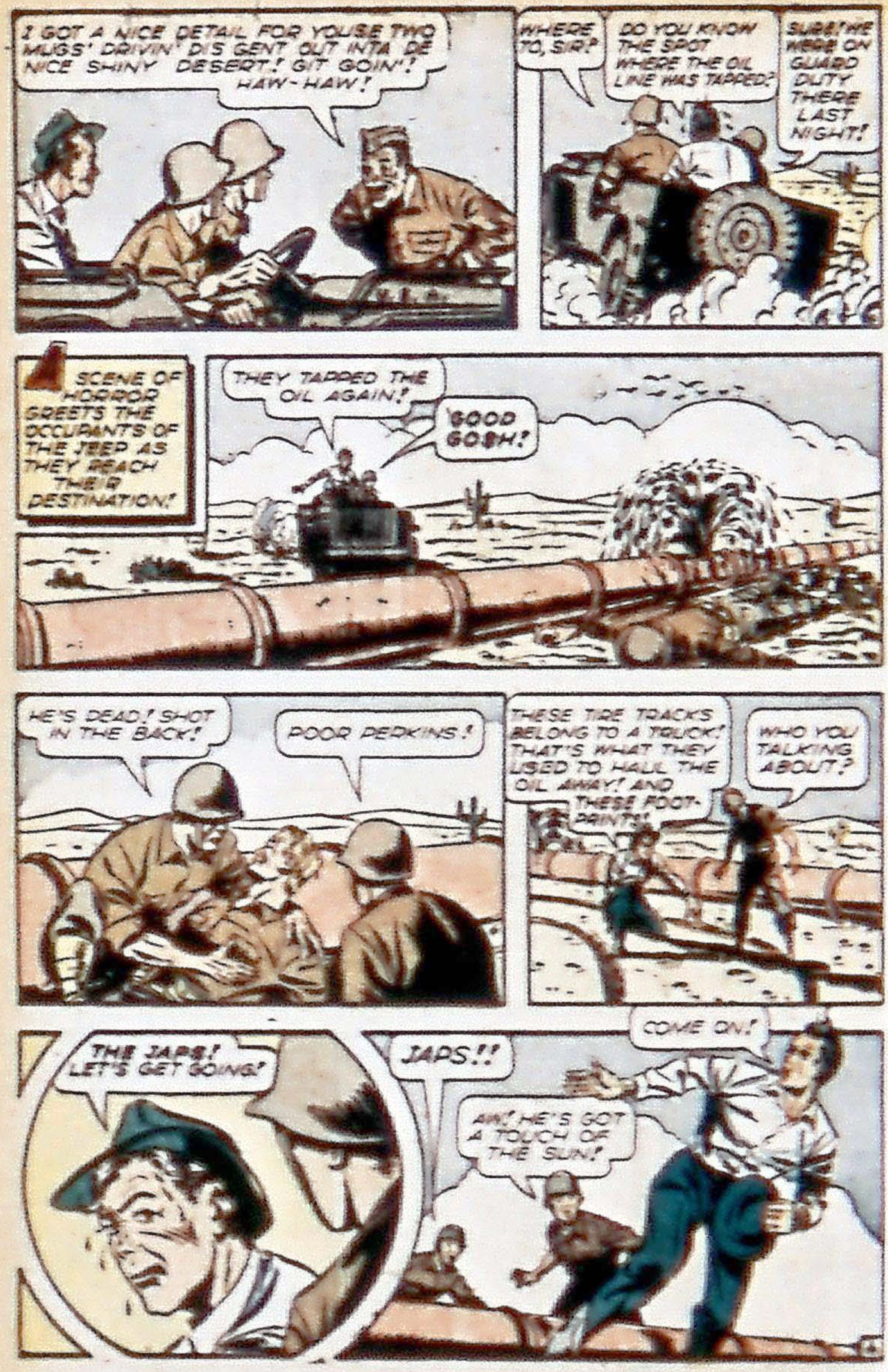
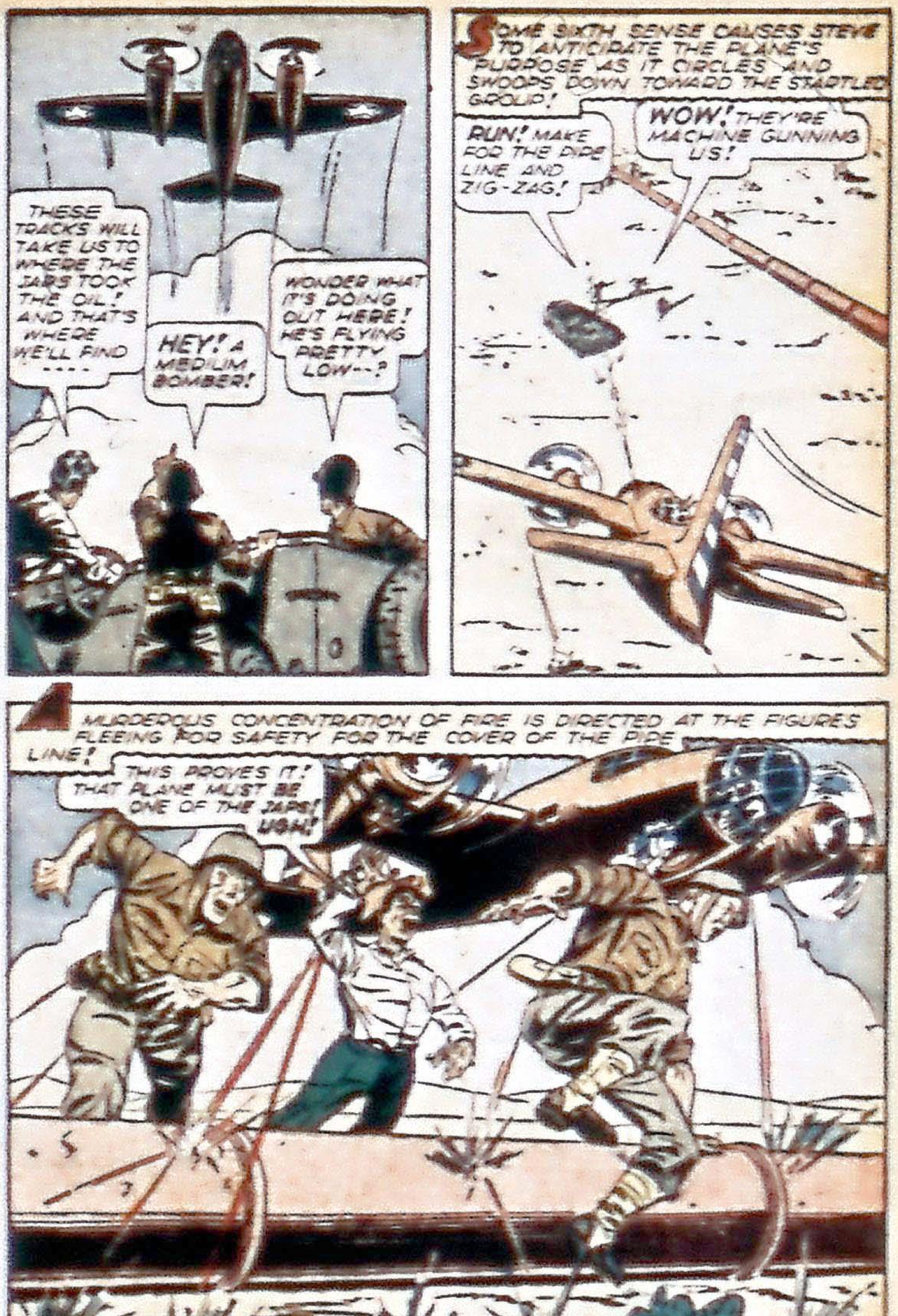
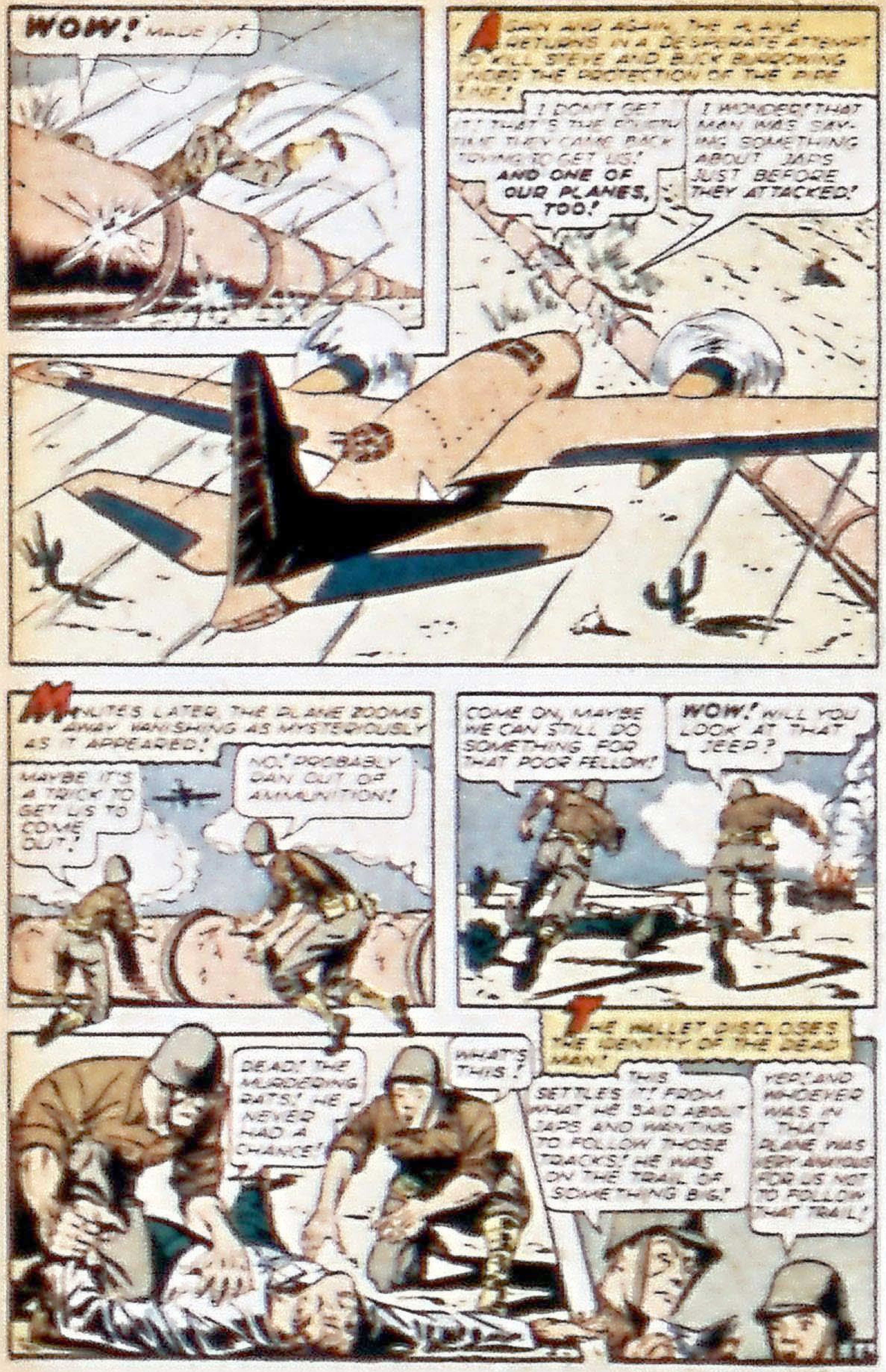

CAPTAIN AMERICA
in
CASTLE OF DOOM!
SOMEWHERE IN THE HEART OF OUR GREAT AMERICAN DESERT--IN THE PITILESS GLARE OF A BROILING SUN--AMID THE BLISTERING SANDS, RISES A STRANGE MEDIEVAL CASTLE!--HOUSING OF ALL THINGS, A MODERN JAP AIR-BASE! IN THIS "CASTLE OF DOOM" OUR TWO INTREPID AMERICAN HEROES VINDICATE THE HUNCH OF A BRAVE G-MAN WHO GIVES HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY!
ART WORK BY SYD SHORES AND VINCE ALASCIA

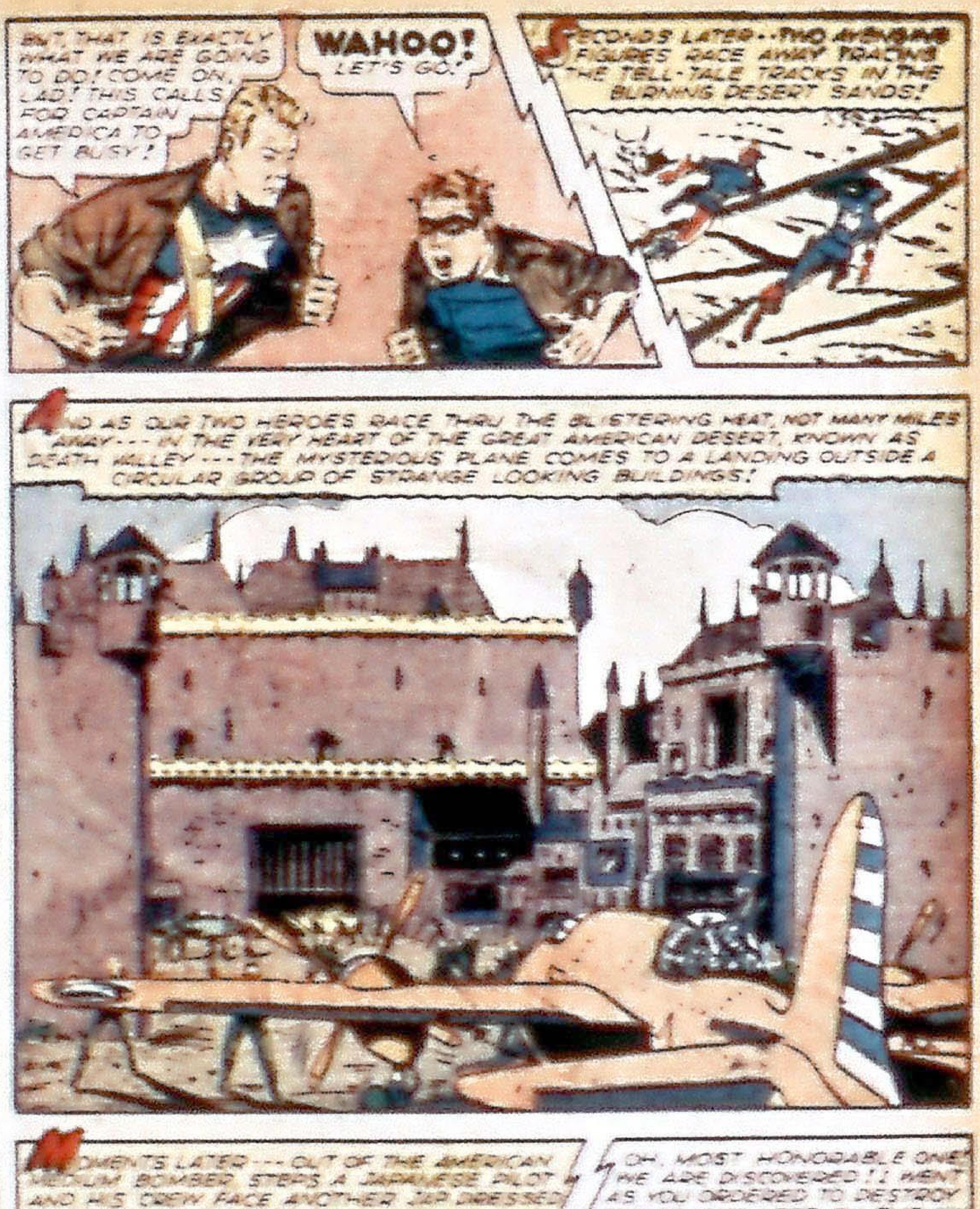

THE OFFICE OF THE F.B.I. IN WASHINGTON, D.C.!
I TELL YOU IT ALL ADDS UP, AS SOON AS YOU GET A REPORT OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF OIL MISSING OR STOLEN, MY HUNCH WILL BE SOLID! THAT'S THE ONLY THING THEY NEED! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
TAKE IT EASY, SPARKS! WE CAN'T MAKE A MOVE UNTIL WE HAVE MORE SUBSTANCIAL DOPE THAN JUST A LOT OF REPORTS THAT TIE IN WITH YOUR THEORY!
RIGHT! OUR INTELLIGENCE IS INVESTIGATING THEM AND AS SOON AS WE--
THAT MAY BE TOO LATE! THOUSANDS OF LIVES MAY BE SACRIFICED BY THE DELAY! THOSE REPORTS MORE THAN TIE UP CONVENIENTLY WITH WHAT YOU CALL A THEORY!
FIRST WE HAD THE MYSTERIOUS BREAKS OUT OF A HALF DOZEN JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMPS! RESULT--ALMOST A HUNDRED JAPS STILL AT LARGE!
WOO-O-O-OO!
WOOO-EE-E-E-E
THEN THE REPORT OF THE MISSING PLANE PARTS!
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE EITHER! I UNDERSTAND THAT THE OTHER PLANE FACTORIES ARE UP AGAINST THE SAME THING!
RIGHT! ENOUGH PARTS MISSING TO ASSEMBLE A WHOLE FLOCK OF PLANES!

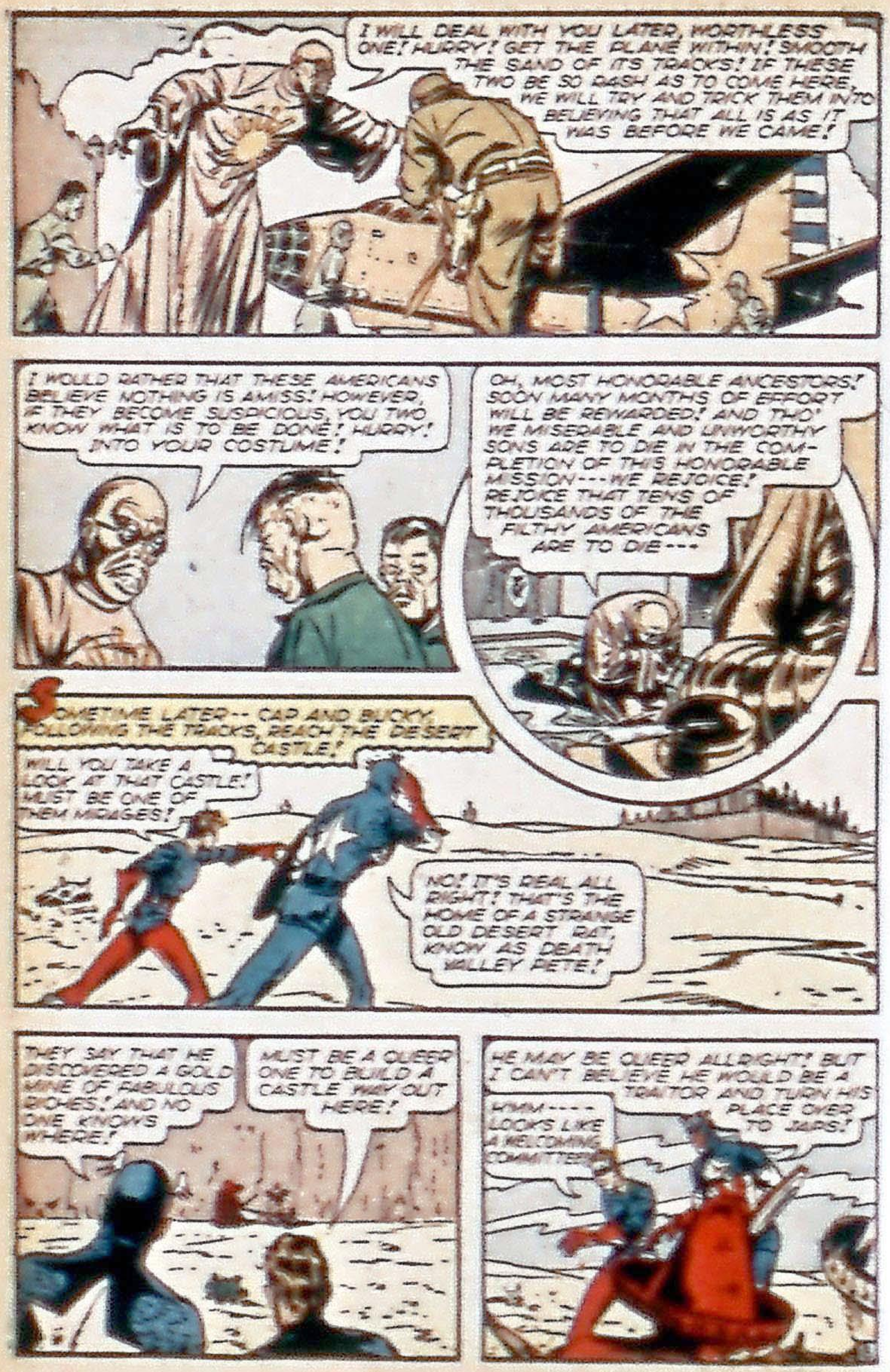

AND THEN THE REPORT OF MYSTERIOUS VANISHING OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION--- AND MOST OF IT FOR PLANES!
SOMEONE IS GOING TO PAY FOR THIS!
WE DIDN'T GET WISE, SIR, BECAUSE WHO-EVER WAS SWIPING IT, WAS TAKING JUST A LITTLE AT A TIME!
U.S.A.
I TELL YOU, THOSE ESCAPED JAPS ARE ASSEMBLING THOSE PLANES AND GUNS SOMEWHERE RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD! AND I HATE TO THINK OF WHAT THEY CAN DO BEFORE WE STOP 'EM!
O.K., SPARKS! YOU TELL ME WHERE AND WE'LL GO GET THEM!
I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW! I HAVE A HUNCH IT'S SOMEWHERE NEAR WHERE THEY CAN GET OIL! GEE, CHIEF! IF ONLY YOU'D GIVE ME PERMISSION TO FOLLOW THIS HUNCH, I'M SURE--
IMPORTANT, CHIEF!
A FEW SECONDS AFTER THE F.B.I. CHIEF READS THE MESSAGE---
YOU WIN, SPARKS! GET GOING! A REPORT JUST CAME IN THAT THE PIPE LINE RUNNING THRU DEATH VALLEY HAS BEEN TAPPED!
WELL, I'LL BE A---!
I'LL WIRE YOU DETAILS, CHIEF! SO LONG!
THE NEXT DAY AT AN AMERICAN CAMP IN NEVADA!
SERGEANT! ASSIGN A DETAIL TO DRIVE THIS MAN WHEREVER HE WANTS TO GO! LOTS OF LUCK, SPARKS!
YESSIR!
HEY--YOU! ROGERS AND BARNES!

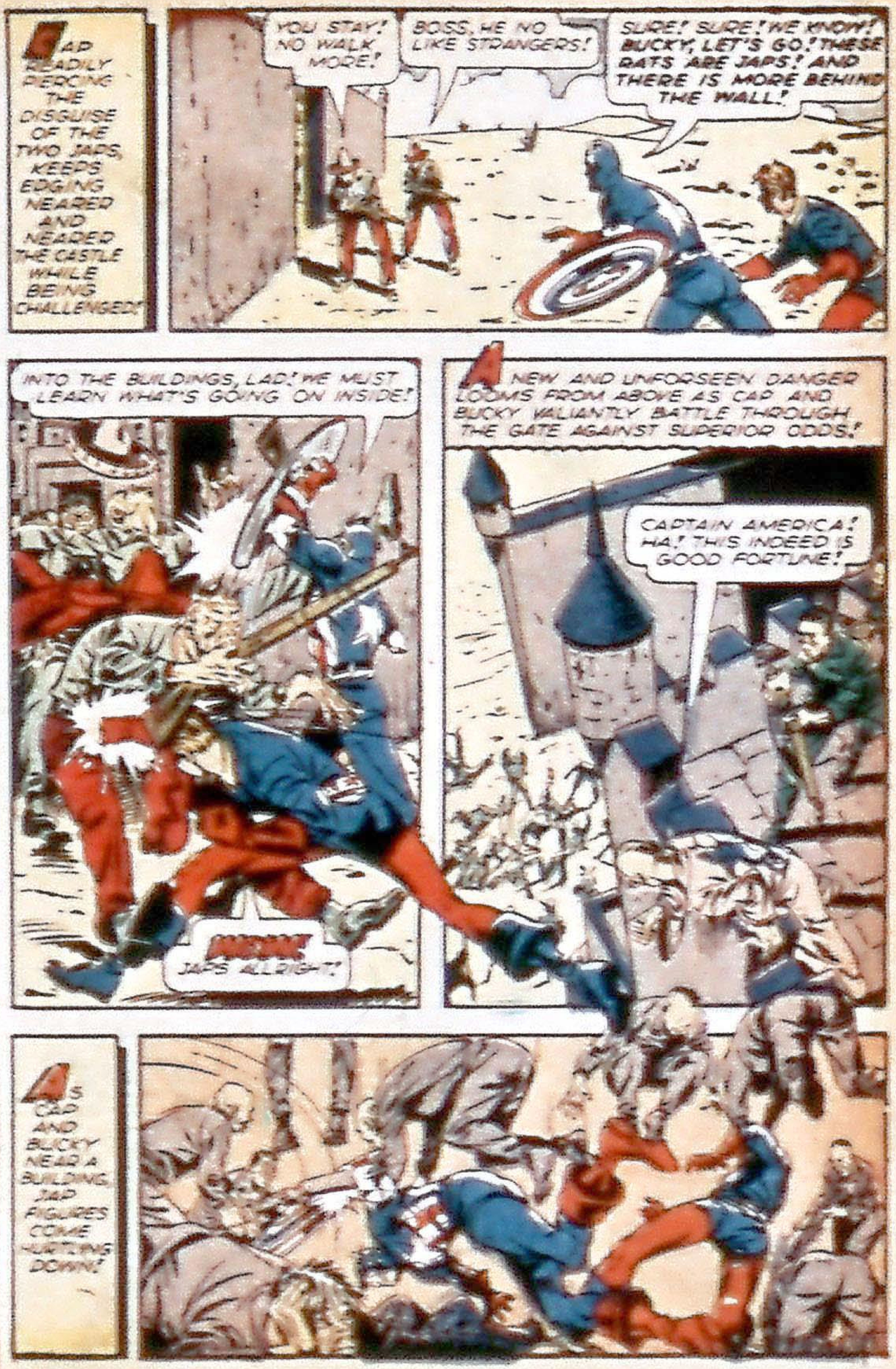

I GOT A NICE DETAIL FOR YOUSE TWO MUGS' DRIVIN' DIS GENT OUT INTA DE NICE SHINY DESERT! GIT GOIN'! HAW-HAW!
WHERE TO, SIR?
DO YOU KNOW THE SPOT WHERE THE OIL LINE WAS TAPPED?
SURE! WE WERE ON GUARD DUTY THERE LAST NIGHT!
A SCENE OF HORROR GREETS THE OCCUPANTS OF THE JEEP AS THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION!
THEY TAPPED THE OIL AGAIN!
GOOD GOSH!
HE'S DEAD! SHOT IN THE BACK!
POOR PERKINS!
THESE TIRE TRACKS BELONG TO A TRUCK! THAT'S WHAT THEY USED TO HAUL THE OIL AWAY! AND THESE FOOT-PRINTS!
WHO YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE JAPS! LET'S GET GOING!
JAPS!!
COME ON!
AW! HE'S GOT A TOUCH OF THE SUN!

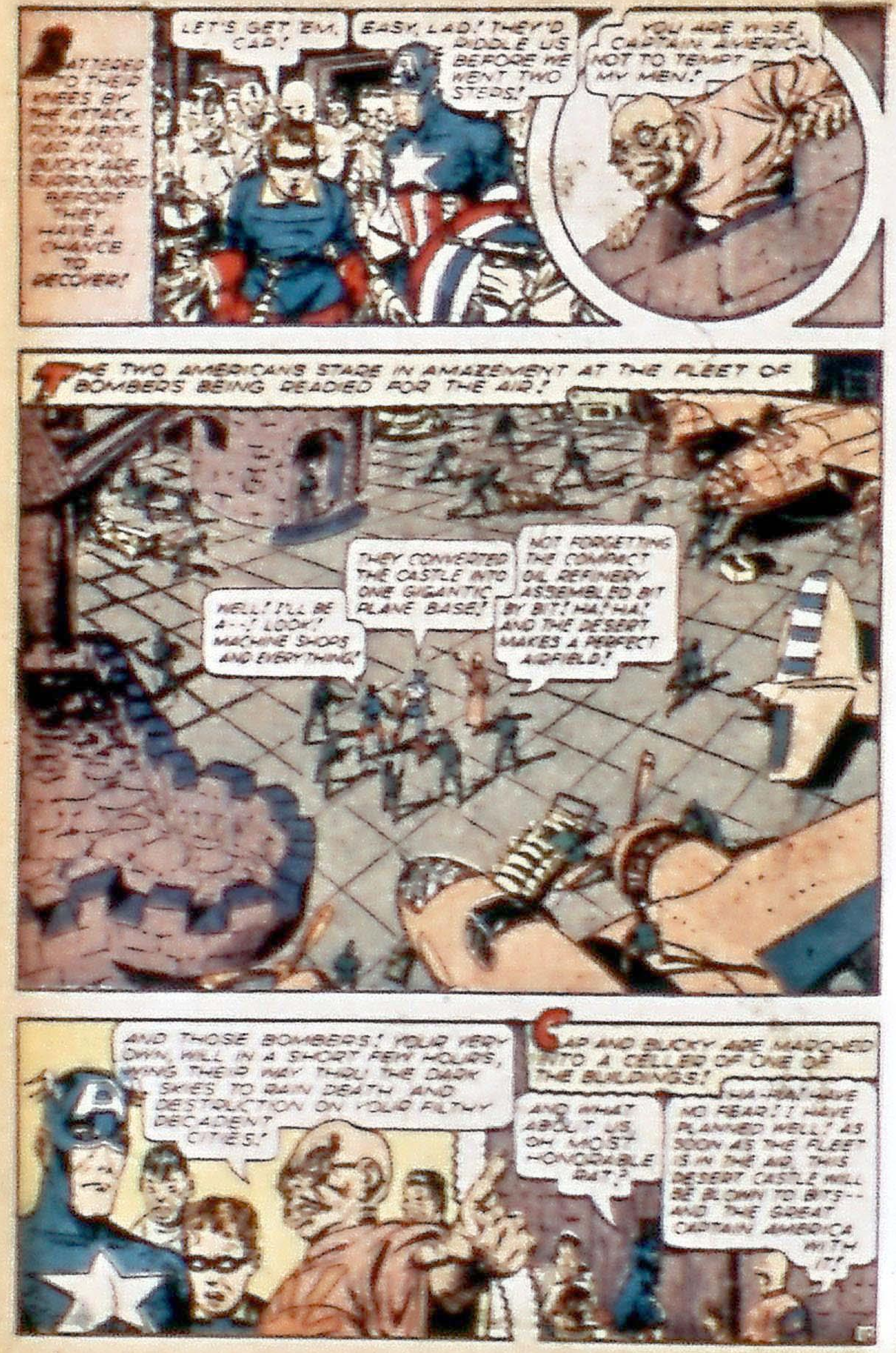

THESE TRACKS WILL TAKE US TO WHERE THE JAPS TOOK THE OIL! AND THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND ----
HEY! A MEDIUM BOMBER!
WONDER WHAT IT'S DOING OUT HERE! HE'S FLYING PRETTY LOW--?
SOME SIXTH SENSE CAUSES STEVE TO ANTICIPATE THE PLANE'S PURPOSE AS IT CIRCLES AND SWOOPS DOWN TOWARD THE STARTLED GROUP!
RUN! MAKE FOR THE PIPE LINE AND ZIG-ZAG!
WOW! THEY'RE MACHINE GUNNING US!
A MURDEROUS CONCENTRATION OF FIRE IS DIRECTED AT THE FIGURES FLEEING FOR SAFETY FOR THE COVER OF THE PIPE LINE!
THIS PROVES IT! THAT PLANE MUST BE ONE OF THE JAPS! UGH!

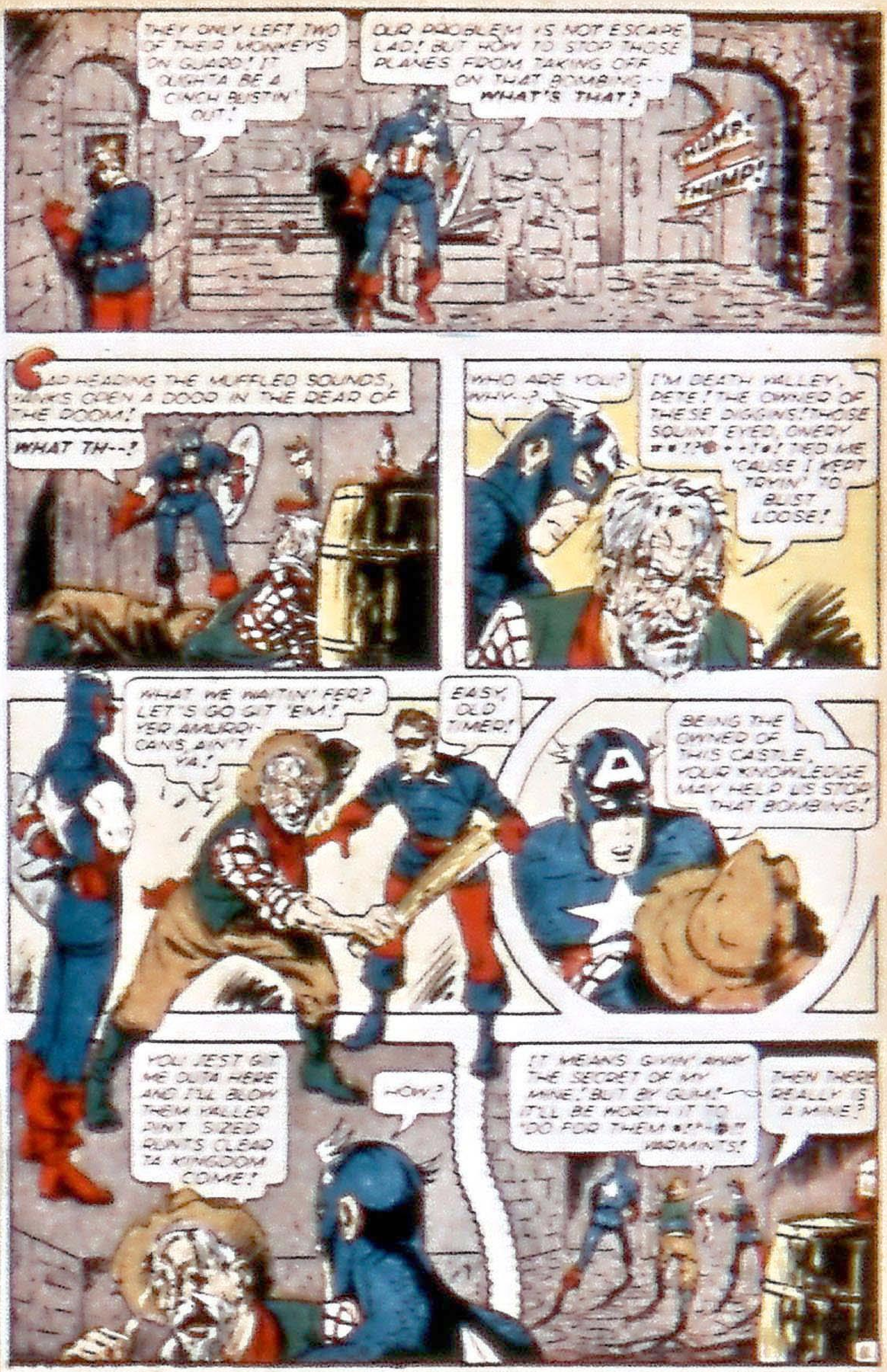

WOW! MADE IT!
AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE PLANE RETURNS IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO KILL STEVE AND BUCK BURROWING UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE PIPE LINE!
I DON'T GET IT! THAT'S THE FOURTH TIME THEY CAME BACK TRYING TO GET US! AND ONE OF OUR PLANES, TOO!
I WONDER! THAT MAN WAS SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT JAPS JUST BEFORE THEY ATTACKED!
MINUTES LATER, THE PLANE ZOOMS AWAY VANISHING AS MYSTERIOUSLY AS IT APPEARED!
MAYBE IT'S A TRICK TO GET US TO COME OUT!
NO! PROBABLY RAN OUT OF AMMUNITION!
COME ON, MAYBE WE CAN STILL DO SOMETHING FOR THAT POOR FELLOW!
WOW! WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT JEEP?
DEAD! THE MURDERING RATS! HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE!
WHAT'S THIS?
THE WALLET DISCLOSES THE IDENTITY OF THE DEAD MAN!
THIS SETTLES IT! FROM WHAT HE SAID ABOUT JAPS AND WANTING TO FOLLOW THOSE TRACKS! HE WAS ON THE TRAIL OF SOMETHING BIG!
YEP! AND WHOEVER WAS IN THAT PLANE WAS VERY ANXIOUS FOR US NOT TO FOLLOW THAT TRAIL!

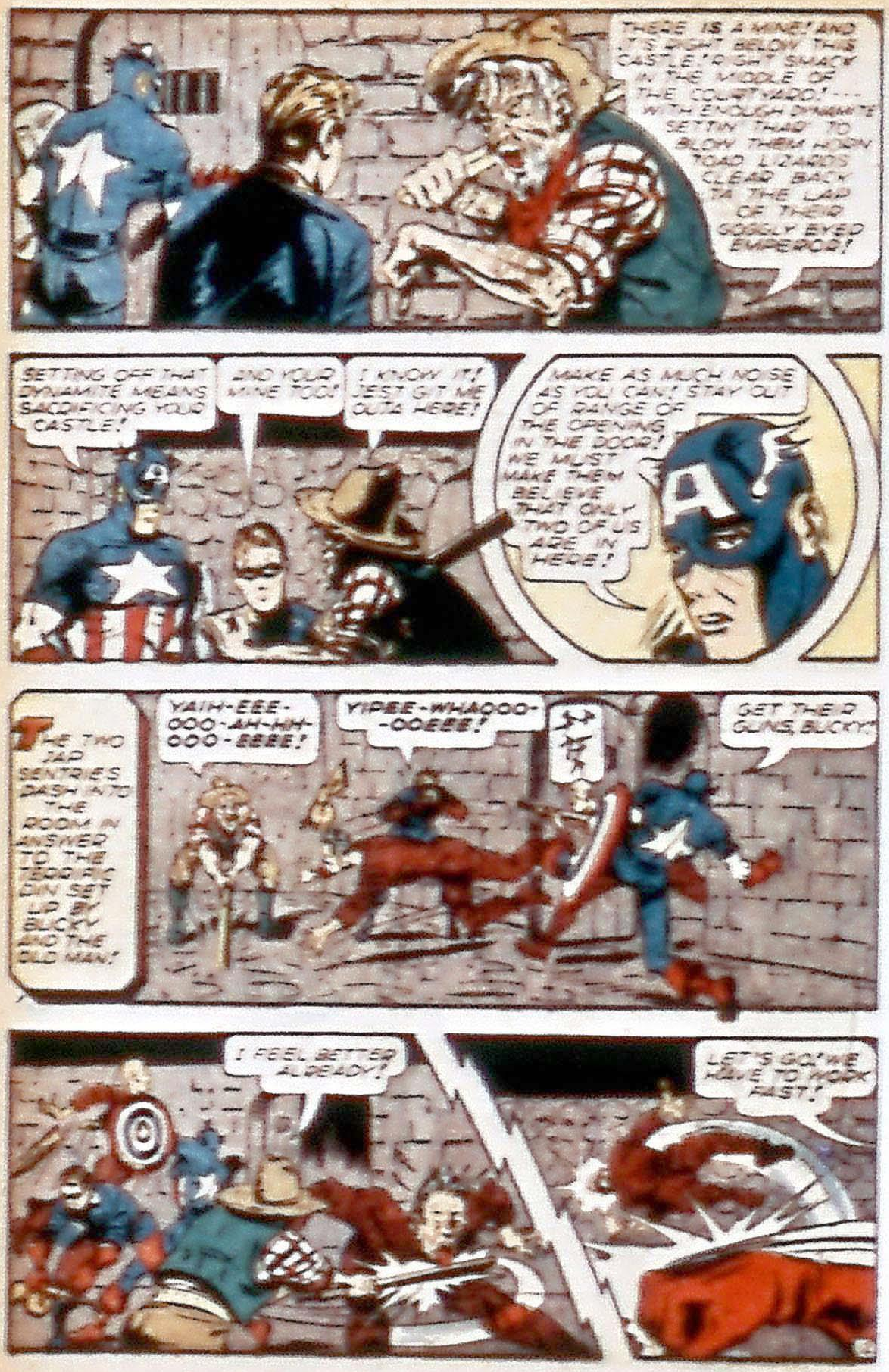

BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO! COME ON, LAD! THIS CALLS FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA TO GET BUSY!
WAHOO! LET'S GO!
SECONDS LATER--TWO AVENGING FIGURES RACE AWAY TRACING THE TELL-TALE TRACKS IN THE BURNING DESERT SANDS!
AND AS OUR TWO HEROES RACE THRU THE BLISTERING HEAT, NOT MANY MILES AWAY---IN THE VERY HEART OF THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT, KNOWN AS DEATH VALLEY---THE MYSTERIOUS PLANE COMES TO A LANDING OUTSIDE A CIRCULAR GROUP OF STRANGE LOOKING BUILDINGS!
MOMENTS LATER---OUT OF THE AMERICAN MEDIUM BOMBER STEPS A JAPANESE PILOT AND HIS CREW FACE ANOTHER JAP DRESSED IN CEREMONIAL ROBES!
OH! HONORABLE LEADER! THIS UNWORTHY AND MISERABLE CREATURE HAS BAD NEWS!
OH, MOST HONORABLE ONE! WE ARE DISCOVERED! I WENT AS YOU ORDERED TO DESTROY THE TRACKS LEFT BY THE TRUCK! ALAS, SOME OF THE FILTHY AMERICAN DOGS HAD ALREADY SPIED THEM!

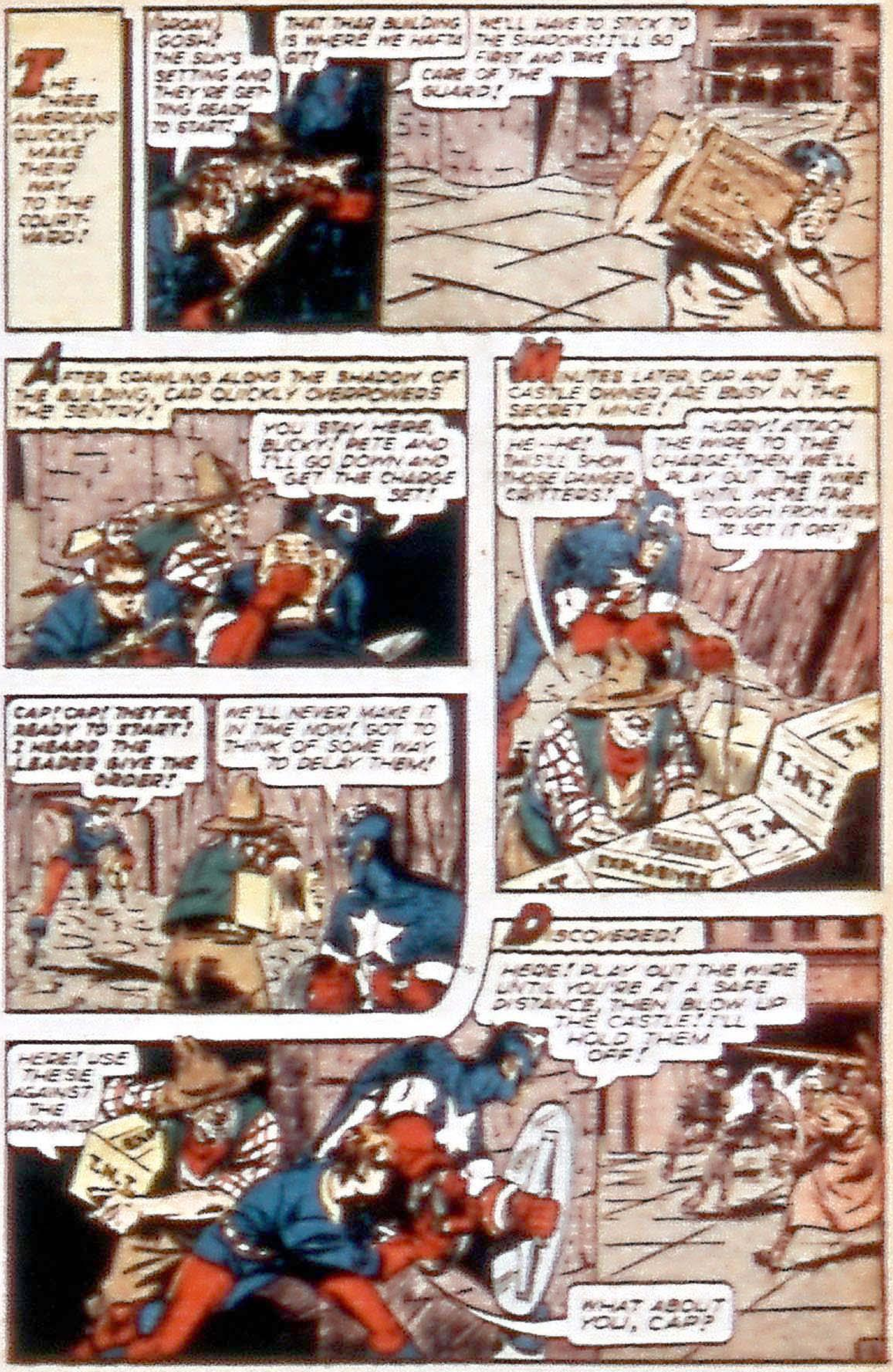

I WILL DEAL WITH YOU LATER, WORTHLESS ONE! HURRY! GET THE PLANE WITHIN! SMOOTH THE SAND OF IT'S TRACKS! IF THESE TWO BE SO RASH AS TO COME HERE, WE WILL TRY AND TRICK THEM INTO BELIEVING THAT ALL IS AS IT WAS BEFORE WE CAME!
I WOULD RATHER THAT THESE AMERICANS BELIEVE NOTHING IS AMISS! HOWEVER, IF THEY BECOME SUSPICIOUS, YOU TWO KNOW WHAT IS TO BE DONE! HURRY! INTO YOUR COSTUME!
OH, MOST HONORABLE ANCESTORS! SOON MANY MONTHS OF EFFORT WILL BE REWARDED! AND THO' WE MISERABLE AND UNWORTHY SONS ARE TO DIE IN THE COMPLETION OF THIS HONORABLE MISSION---WE REJOICE! REJOICE THAT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF THE FILTHY AMERICANS ARE TO DIE---
SOMETIME LATER-- CAP AND BUCKY, FOLLOWING THE TRACKS, REACH THE DESERT CASTLE!
WILL YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THAT CASTLE! MUST BE ONE OF THEM MIRAGES!
NO! IT'S REAL ALL RIGHT! THAT'S THE HOME OF A STRANGE OLD DESERT RAT, KNOW AS DEATH VALLEY PETE!
THEY SAY THAT HE DISCOVERED A GOLD MINE OF FABULOUS RICHES! AND NO ONE KNOWS WHERE!
MUST BE A QUEER ONE TO BUILD A CASTLE WAY OUT HERE!
HE MAY BE QUEER ALLRIGHT! BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WOULD BE A TRAITOR AND TURN HIS PLACE OVER TO JAPS!
HMM--- LOOKS LIKE A WELCOMING COMMITTEE!

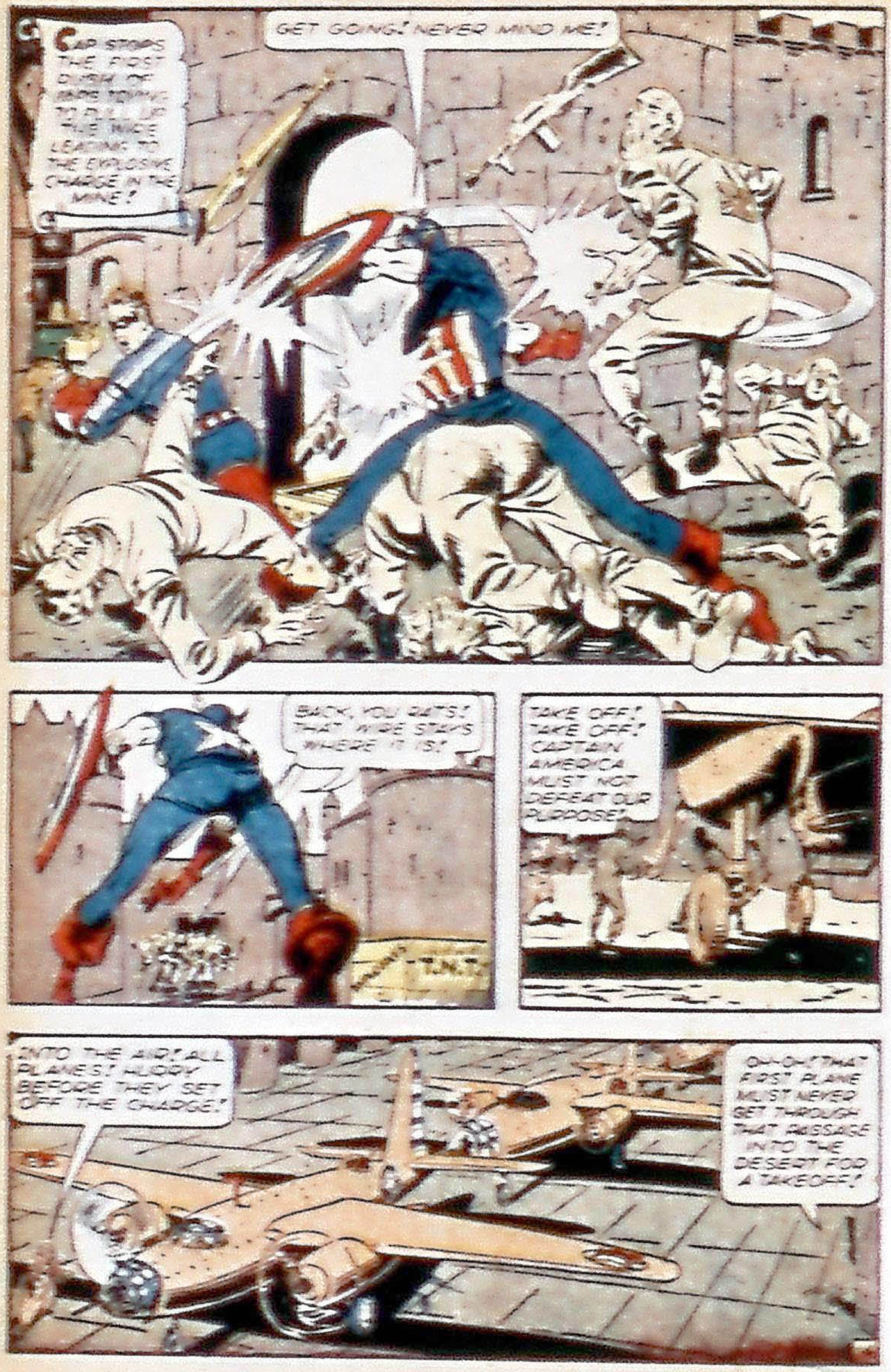

CAP READILY PIERCING THE DISGUISE OF THE TWO JAPS, KEEPS EDGING NEARED AND NEARED THE CASTLE WHILE BEING CHALLENGED!
YOU STAY! NO WALK MORE!
BOSS, HE NO LIKE STRANGERS!
SURE! SURE! WE KNOW! BUCKY, LET'S GO! THESE RATS ARE JAPS! AND THERE IS MORE BEHIND THE WALL!
INTO THE BUILDINGS, LAD! WE MUST LEARN WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE!
JAPS ALLRIGHT!
A NEW AND UNFORSEEN DANGER LOOMS FROM ABOVE AS CAP AND BUCKY VALIANTLY BATTLE THROUGH THE GATE AGAINST SUPERIOR ODDS!
CAPTAIN AMERICA! HA! THIS INDEED IS GOOD FORTUNE!
AS CAP AND BUCKY NEAR A BUILDING, JAP FIGURES COME HURTLING DOWN!

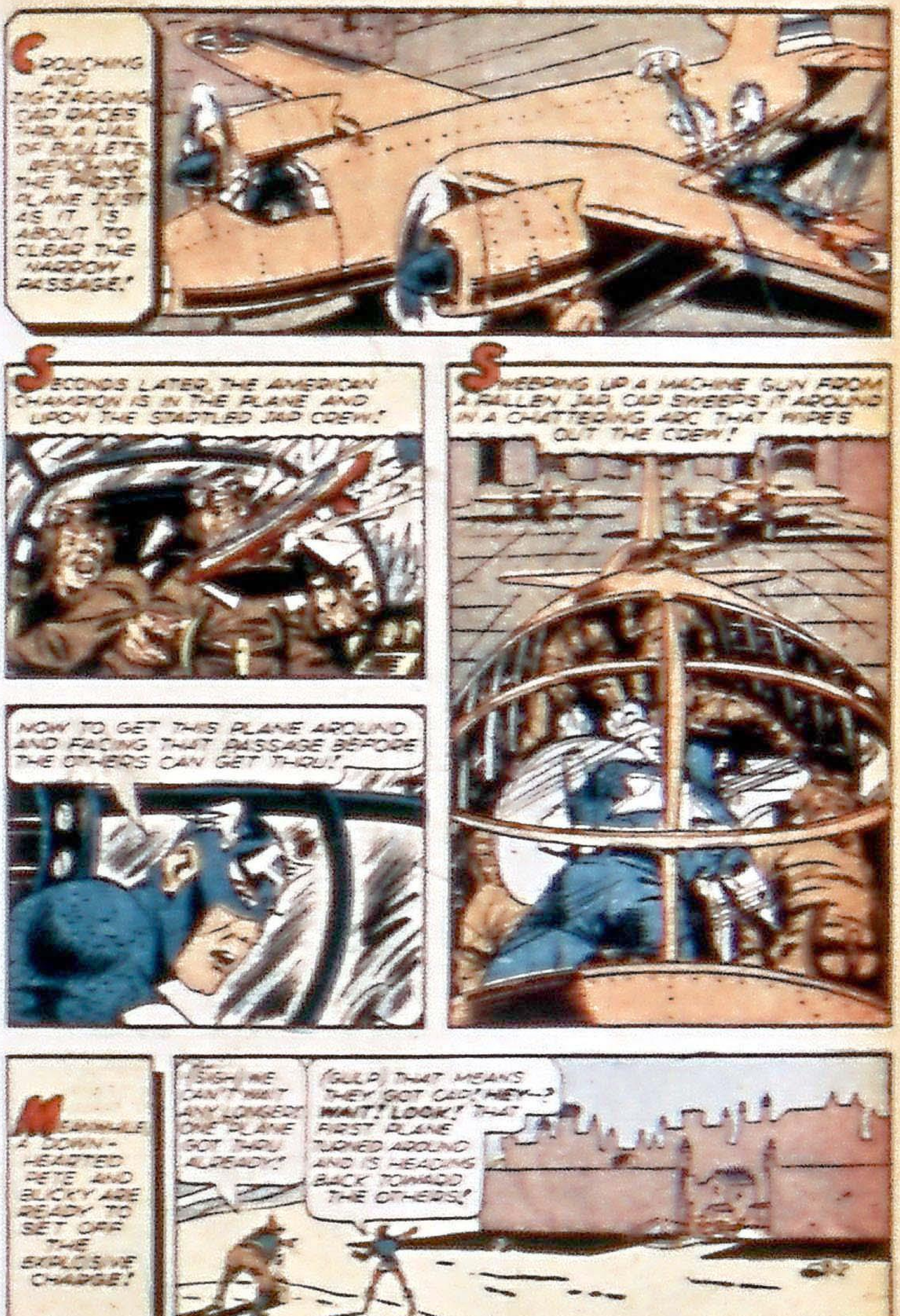

BATTERED TO THEIR KNEES BY THE ATTACK FROM ABOVE, CAP AND BUCKY ARE SURROUNDED BEFORE THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO RECOVER!
LET'S GET 'EM, CAP!
EASY, LAD! THEY'D RIDDLE US BEFORE WE WENT TWO STEPS!
YOU ARE WISE, CAPTAIN AMERICA, NOT TO TEMPT MY MEN!
THE TWO AMERICANS STARE IN AMAZEMENT AT THE FLEET OF BOMBERS BEING READIED FOR THE AIR!
WELL! I'LL BE A--! LOOK! MACHINE SHOPS AND EVERYTHING!
THEY CONVERTED THE CASTLE INTO ONE GIGANTIC PLANE BASE!
NOT FORGETTING THE COMPACT OIL REFINERY ASSEMBLED BIT BY BIT! HA! HA! AND THE DESERT MAKES A PERFECT AIRFIELD!
AND THOSE BOMBERS! YOUR VERY OWN, WILL IN A SHORT FEW HOURS, WING THEIR WAY THRU THE DARK SKIES TO RAIN DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ON YOUR FILTHY DECADENT CITIES!
CAP AND BUCKY ARE MARCHED INTO A CELLER OF ONE OF THE BUILDINGS!
AND WHAT ABOUT US, OH MOST HONORABLE RAT?
HA-HA! HAVE NO FEAR! I HAVE PLANNED WELL! AS SOON AS THE FLEET IS IN THE AIR, THIS DESERT CASTLE WILL BE BLOWN TO BITS-- AND THE GREAT CAPTAIN AMERICA WITH IT!

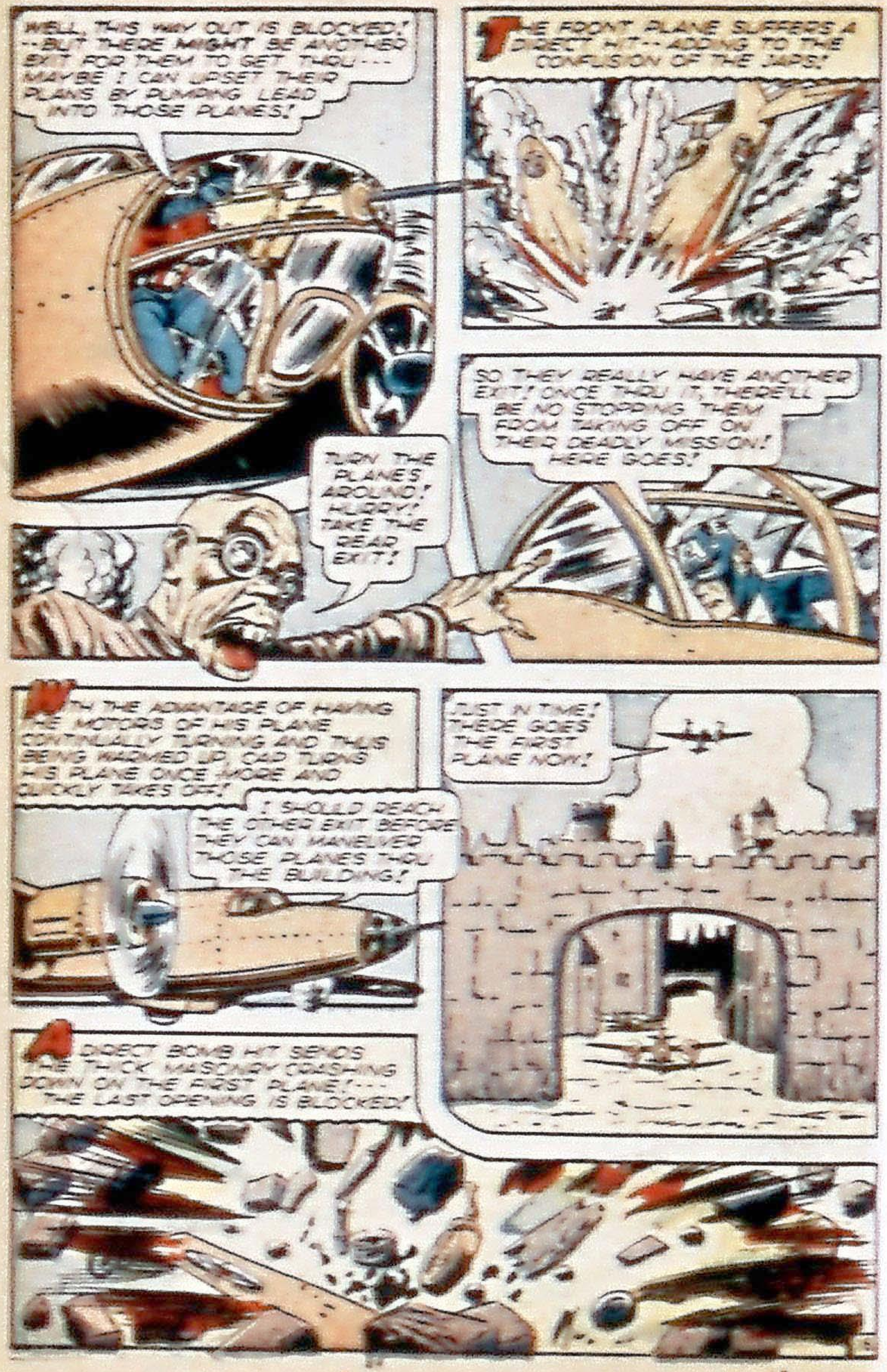

THEY ONLY LEFT TWO OF THEIR MONKEYS ON GUARD! IT OUGHTA BE A CINCH BUSTIN' OUT!
OUR PROBLEM IS NOT ESCAPE LAD! BUT HOW TO STOP THOSE PLANES FROM TAKING OFF ON THAT BOMBING-- WHAT'S THAT?
THUMP! THUMP!
CAP HEARING THE MUFFLED SOUNDS, YANKS OPEN A DOOR IN THE REAR OF THE ROOM!
WHAT TH--!
WHO ARE YOU? WHY--?
I'M DEATH VALLEY PETE! THE OWNER OF THESE DIGGINS! THOSE SQUINT EYED, ONERY **!?●**!*! TIED ME 'CAUSE I KEPT TRYIN' TO BUST LOOSE!
WHAT WE WAITIN' FER? LET'S GO GIT 'EM! YER AMURRICANS, AIN'T YA!
EASY, OLD TIMER!
BEING THE OWNER OF THIS CASTLE, YOUR KNOWLEDGE MAY HELP US STOP THAT BOMBING!
YOU JEST GIT ME OUTA HERE AND I'LL BLOW THEM YALLER PINT SIZED RUNTS CLEAR TA KINGDOM COME!
HOW?
IT MEANS GIVIN' AWAY THE SECRET OF MY MINE! BUT BY GUM! IT'LL BE WORTH IT TO DO FOR THEM *!*#!! VARMINTS!
THEN THERE REALLY IS A MINE?

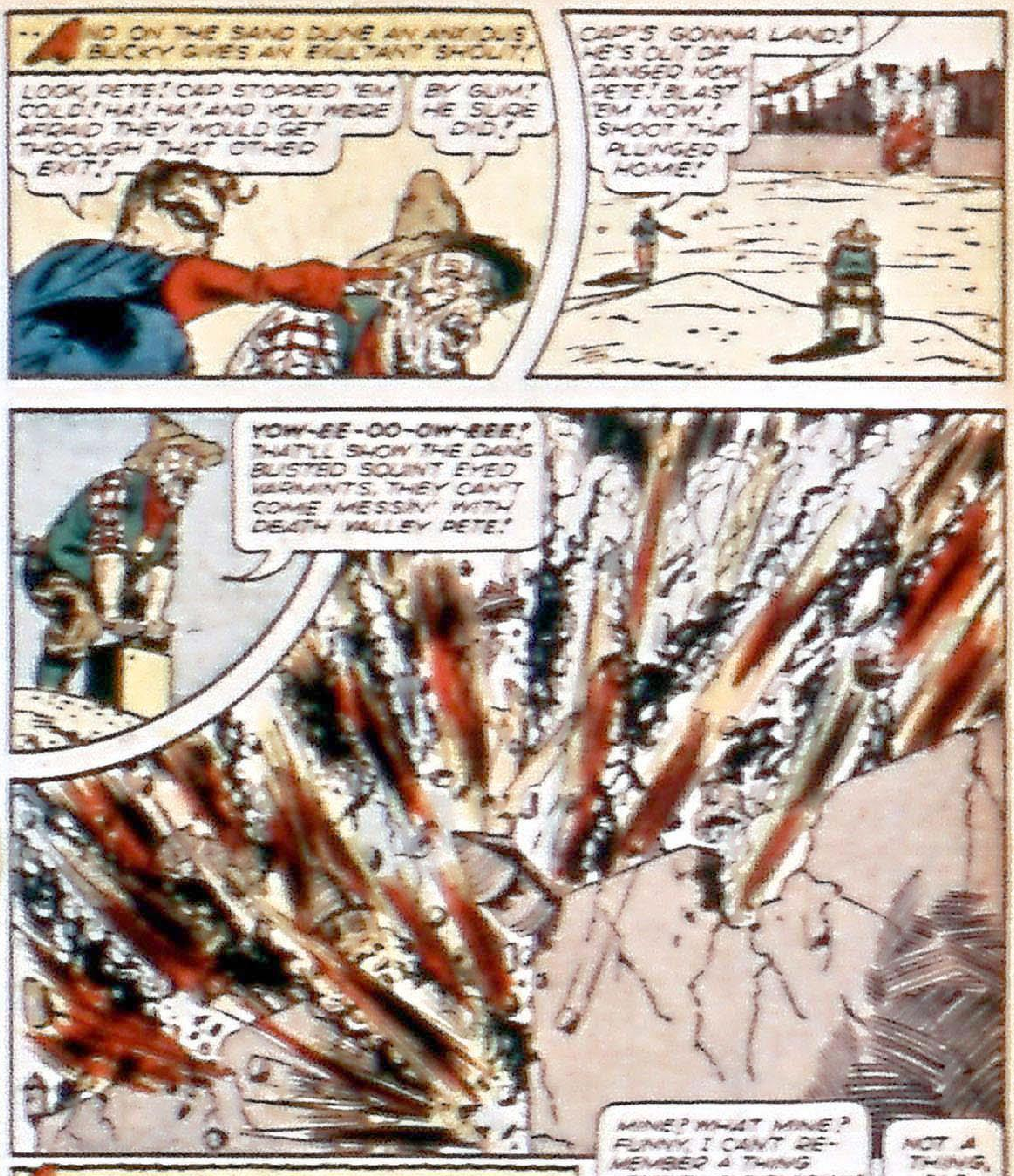

THERE IS A MINE! AND IT'S RIGHT BELOW THIS CASTLE! RIGHT SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE COURTYARD! ... WITH ENOUGH DYNAMITE SETTIN' THAR' TO BLOW THEM HORN TOAD LIZARDS CLEAR BACK TA THE LAP OF THEIR GOGGLY EYED EMPEROR!
SETTING OFF THAT DYNAMITE MEANS SACRIFICING YOUR CASTLE!
AND YOUR MINE TOO!
I KNOW IT! JEST GIT ME OUTA HERE!
MAKE AS MUCH NOISE AS YOU CAN! STAY OUT OF RANGE OF THE OPENING IN THE DOOR! WE MUST MAKE THEM BELIEVE THAT ONLY TWO OF US ARE IN HERE!
THE TWO JAP SENTRIES DASH INTO THE ROOM IN ANSWER TO THE TERRIFIC DIN SET UP BY BUCKY AND THE OLD MAN!
YAIH-EEE-OOO-AH-HH-OOO-EEEE!
YIPEE-WHAOOO-OOEEE!
GET THEIR GUNS, BUCKY!
I FEEL BETTER ALREADY!
LET'S GO! WE HAVE TO WORK FAST!


THE THREE AMERICANS QUICKLY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE COURTYARD!
GROAN! GOSH! THE SUN'S SETTING AND THEY'RE GETTING READY TO START!
THAT THAR BUILDING IS WHERE WE HAFTA GIT!
WE'LL HAVE TO STICK TO THE SHADOWS! I'LL GO FIRST AND TAKE CARE OF THE GUARD!
AFTER CRAWLING ALONG THE SHADOW OF THE BUILDING, CAP QUICKLY OVERPOWERS THE SENTRY!
YOU STAY HERE, BUCKY! PETE AND I'LL GO DOWN AND GET THE CHARGE SET!
MINUTES LATER CAP AND THE CASTLE OWNER ARE BUSY IN THE SECRET MINE!
HE--HE! THIS'LL SHOW THOSE DANGED CRITTERS!
HURRY! ATTACH THE WIRE TO THE CHARGE! THEN WE'LL PLAY OUT THE WIRE UNTIL WE'RE FAR ENOUGH FROM HERE TO SET IT OFF!
T.N.T.
T.N.T.
DANGER
EXPLOSIVES
CAP! CAP! THEY'RE READY TO START! I HEARD THE LEADER GIVE THE ORDER!
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME NOW! GOT TO THINK OF SOME WAY TO DELAY THEM!
DISCOVERED!
HERE! PLAY OUT THE WIRE UNTIL YOU'RE AT A SAFE DISTANCE, THEN BLOW UP THE CASTLE! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!
HERE! USE THESE AGAINST THE VARMINTS!
T.N.T.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, CAP?


CAP STOPS THE FIRST RUSH OF JAPS TRYING TO PULL UP THE WIRE LEADING TO THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGE IN THE MINE!
GET GOING! NEVER MIND ME!
BACK, YOU RATS! THAT WIRE STAYS WHERE IT IS!
T.N.T.
TAKE OFF! TAKE OFF! CAPTAIN AMERICA MUST NOT DEFEAT OUR PURPOSE!
INTO THE AIR! ALL PLANES! HURRY BEFORE THEY SET OFF THE CHARGE!
OH-OH! THAT FIRST PLANE MUST NEVER GET THROUGH THAT PASSAGE INTO THE DESERT FOR A TAKEOFF!


CROUCHING AND ZIG-ZAGGING CAP RACES THRU A HAIL OF BULLETS REACHING THE FIRST PLANE JUST AS IT IS ABOUT TO CLEAR THE NARROW PASSAGE!
SECONDS LATER, THE AMERICAN CHAMPION IS IN THE PLANE AND UPON THE STARTLED JAP CREW!
SWEEPING UP A MACHINE GUN FROM A FALLEN JAP, CAP SWEEPS IT AROUND IN A CHATTERING ARC THAT WIPES OUT THE CREW!
NOW TO GET THIS PLANE AROUND AND FACING THAT PASSAGE BEFORE THE OTHERS CAN GET THRU!
MEANWHILE A DOWN-HEARTED PETE AND BUCKY ARE READY TO SET OFF THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGE!
(SIGH) WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER! ONE PLANE GOT THRU ALREADY!
(GULP) THAT MEANS THEY GOT CAP! HEY--? WAIT! LOOK! THAT FIRST PLANE TURNED AROUND AND IS HEADING BACK TOWARD THE OTHERS!


WELL, THIS WAY OUT IS BLOCKED! --BUT THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER EXIT FOR THEM TO GET THRU--- MAYBE I CAN UPSET THEIR PLANS BY PUMPING LEAD INTO THOSE PLANES!
THE FRONT PLANE SUFFERS A DIRECT HIT--- ADDING TO THE CONFUSION OF THE JAPS!
SO THEY REALLY HAVE ANOTHER EXIT! ONCE THRU IT, THERE'LL BE NO STOPPING THEM FROM TAKING OFF ON THEIR DEADLY MISSION! HERE GOES!
TURN THE PLANES AROUND! HURRY! TAKE THE REAR EXIT!
WITH THE ADVANTAGE OF HAVING THE MOTORS OF HIS PLANE CONTINUALLY TURNING AND THUS BEING WARMED UP, CAP TURNS HIS PLANE ONCE MORE AND QUICKLY TAKES OFF!
I SHOULD REACH THE OTHER EXIT BEFORE THEY CAN MANEUVER THOSE PLANES THRU THE BUILDING!
JUST IN TIME! THERE GOES THE FIRST PLANE NOW!
A DIRECT BOMB HIT SENDS THE THICK MASONRY CRASHING DOWN ON THE FIRST PLANE!--- THE LAST OPENING IS BLOCKED!


—AND ON THE SAND DUNE AN ANXIOUS BUCKY GIVES AN EXULTANT SHOUT!
LOOK, PETE! CAP STOPPED 'EM COLD! HA! HA! AND YOU WERE AFRAID THEY WOULD GET THROUGH THAT OTHER EXIT!
BY GUM! HE SURE DID!
CAP'S GONNA LAND! HE'S OUT OF DANGER NOW, PETE! BLAST 'EM NOW! SHOOT THAT PLUNGER HOME!
YOW-EE-OO-OW-EEE! THAT'LL SHOW THE DANG BLISTED SQUINT EYED VARMINTS. THEY CAN'T COME MESSIN' WITH DEATH VALLEY PETE!
LATER—AFTER CAP MAKES A SAFE LANDING!
YOURS WAS A COURAGEOUS DEED, PETE! SACRIFICING YOUR HOME AND MINE!
(SIGH) IT WAS WORTH IT TO GET THEM VARMINTS! ONLY NOW THE SECRET OF MY MINE IS KNOWN!
MINE? WHAT MINE? FUNNY, I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING AFTER THAT EXPLOSION! CAN YOU, BUCKY?
NOT A THING, OLD TIMER! NOT A THING!
THE END

URGENT!

SENTINELS OF LIBERTY!

A VITAL MESSAGE from CAPTAIN AMERICA!

HELLO, KIDS!

YOU'RE IN THIS WAR EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T CARRY A GUN, RIDE A TANK, A JEEP OR PILOT A PLANE! YOU CAN DO YOUR PART IN WINNING THIS WAR BY **JOINING THE WASTE PAPER DRIVE!**

GATHER THE KIDS IN YOUR BLOCK... MAKE A HOUSE TO HOUSE CANVASS FOR PAPER... ANY OLD PAPER, MAGAZINES, BOXES, STORE BAGS, ENVELOPES, NEWSPAPERS, CORRUGATED PAPER!

PAPER IS A WEAPON OF WAR! A MIGHTY WEAPON! EVERY GUN, BULLET, EVERY PIECE OF AMMUNITION USED TO SMASH THE UNHOLY JAPS AND NAZIS IS SHIPPED IN PAPER CONTAINERS! U.S. ARMY FIELD RATION "K" IS PACKED IN FOLDING CARTONS! AND MANY MANY OTHER THINGS TOO! TO MAKE NEW PAPER WE MUST HAVE THE OLD! TODAY PAPER IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER! WAR CAUSES SHORTAGES... THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF PAPER... TO AN ALARMING DEGREE! SO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR NEAREST LOCAL SALVAGE COMMITTEE, AND ASK THEM HOW YOU AND YOUR CHUMS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE WAR EFFORT.

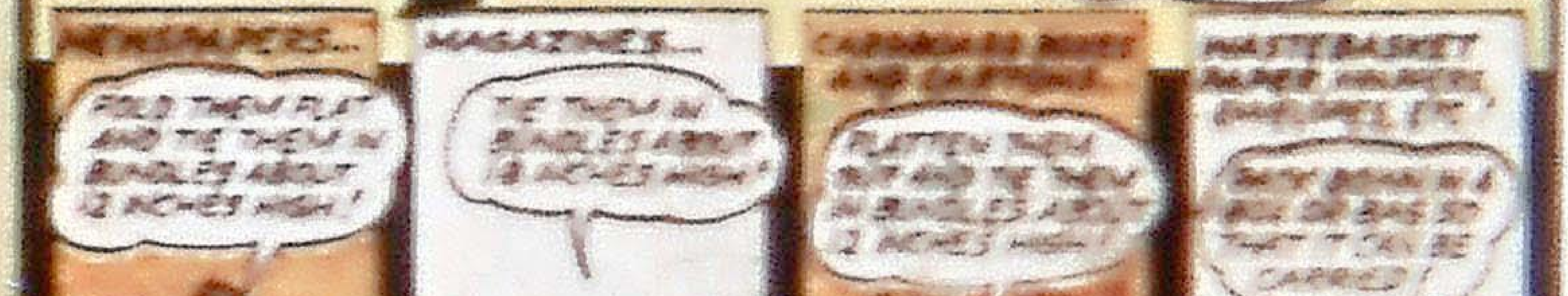
DO IT NOW --- THIS MINUTE!

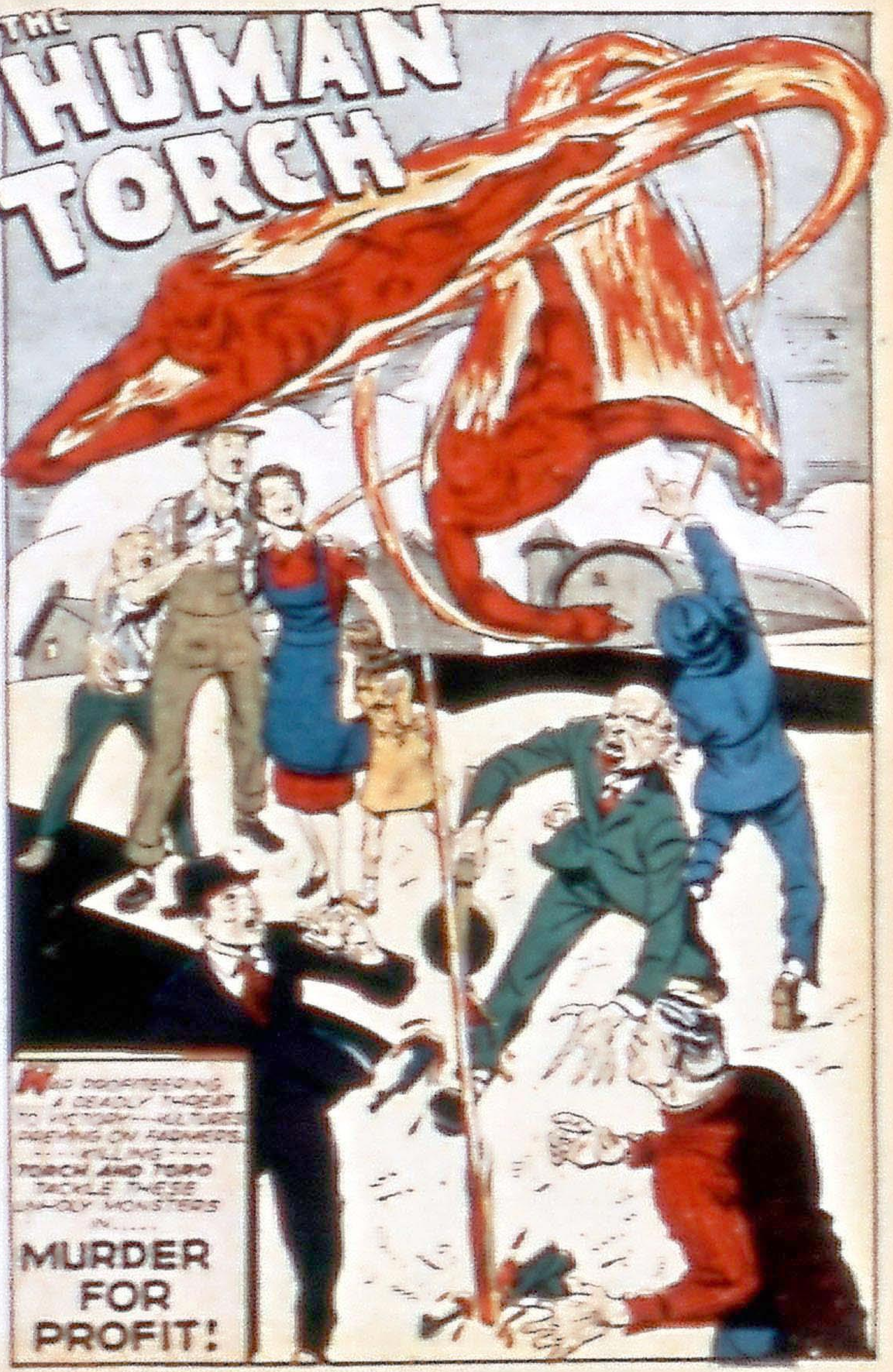
BUCKY SHOWS YOU HOW TO PACK THIS PRECIOUS PAPER BEFORE TURNING IT OVER TO THE SALVAGE COMMITTEE!

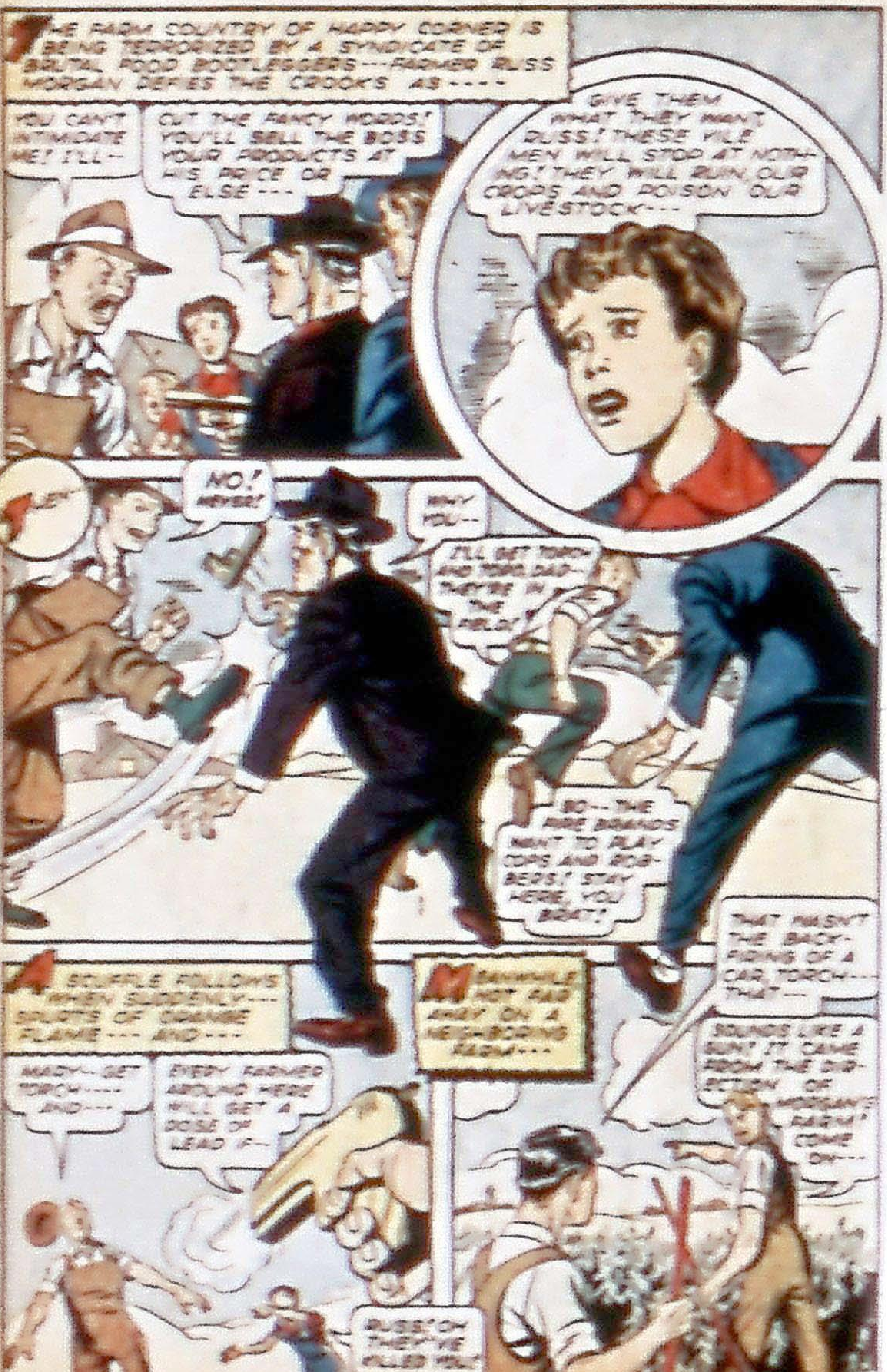
THANKS, KIDS!

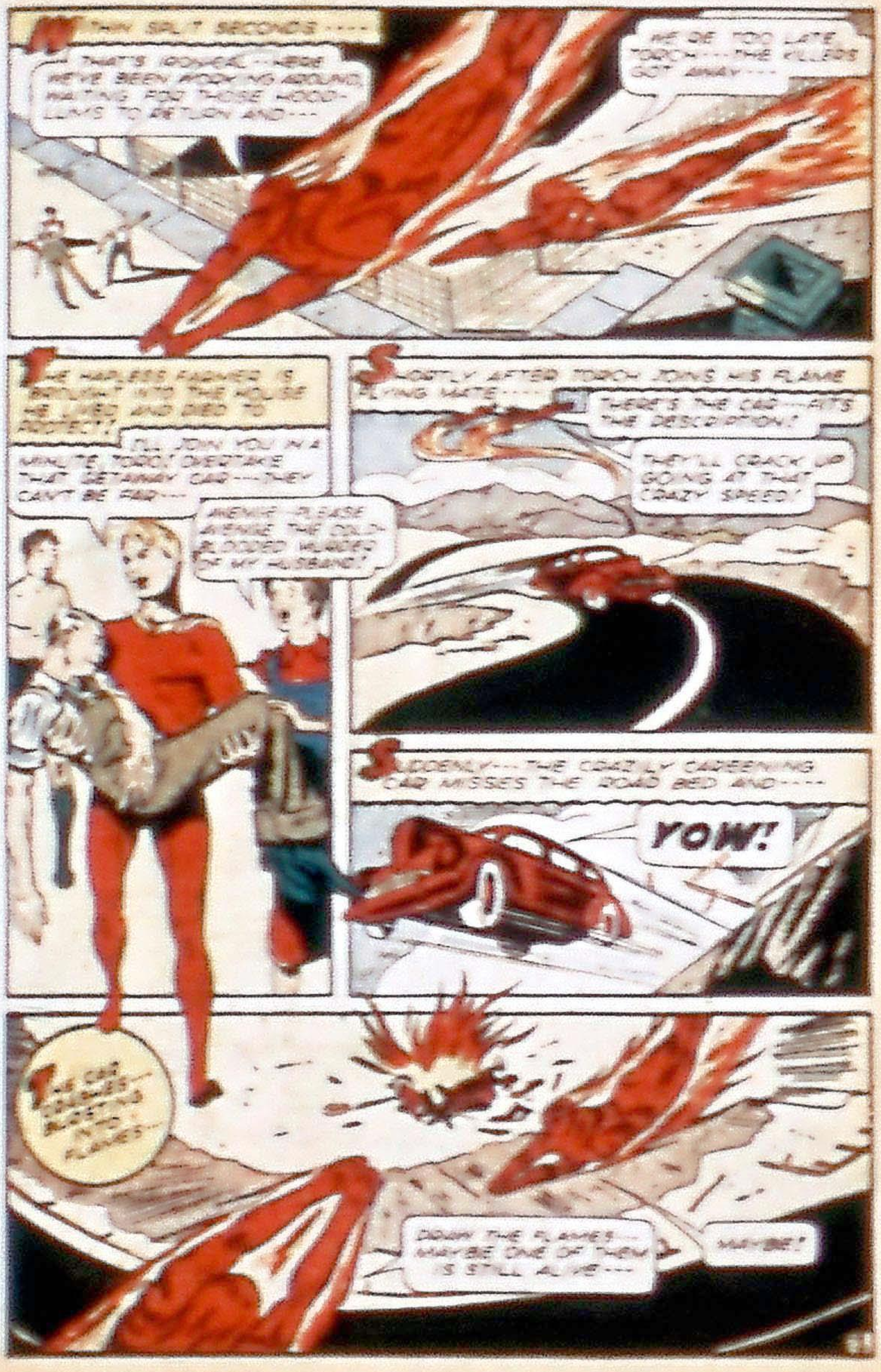
HOW TO SAVE YOUR PAPER

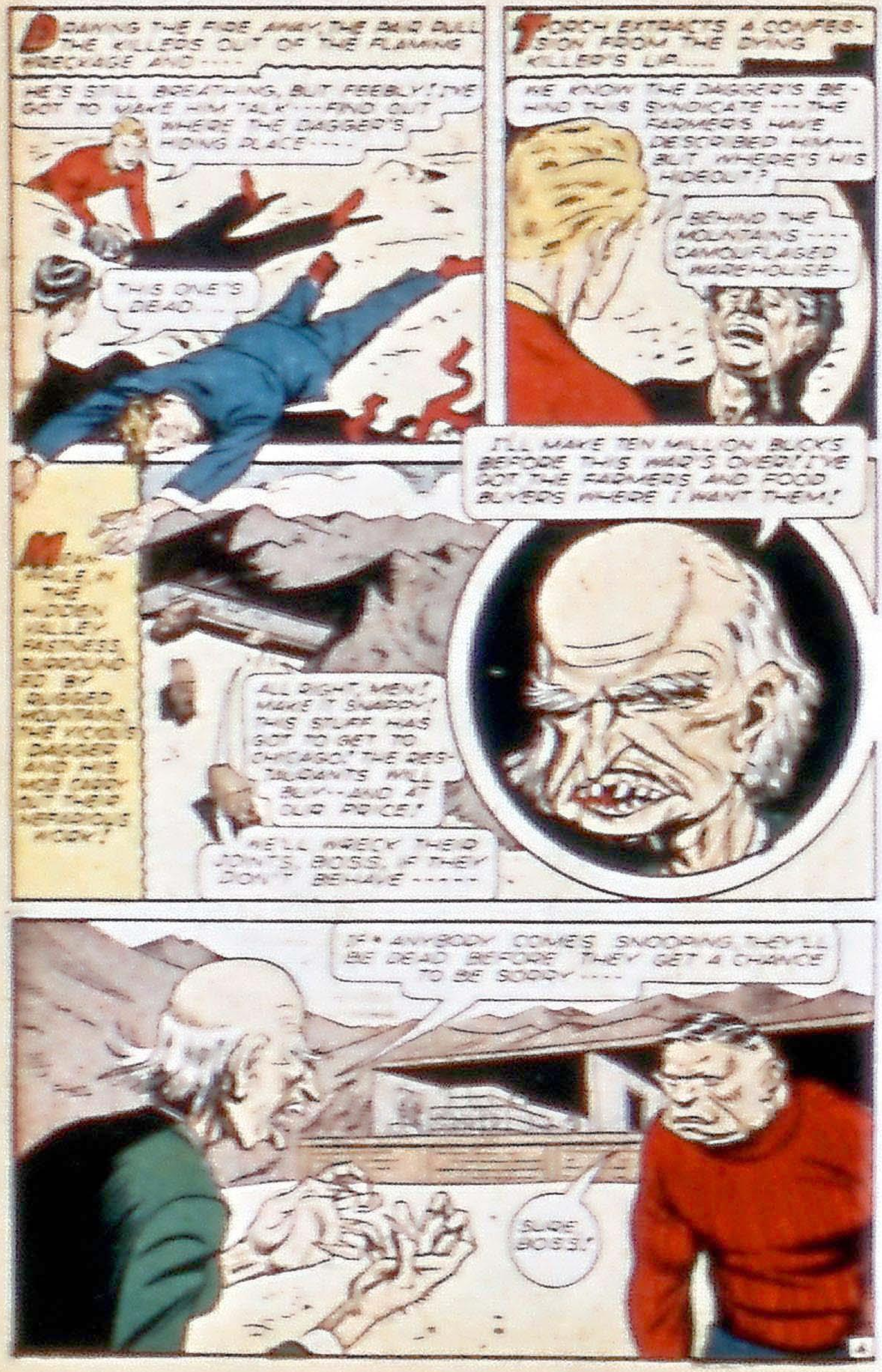
FOR EASY HANDLING!

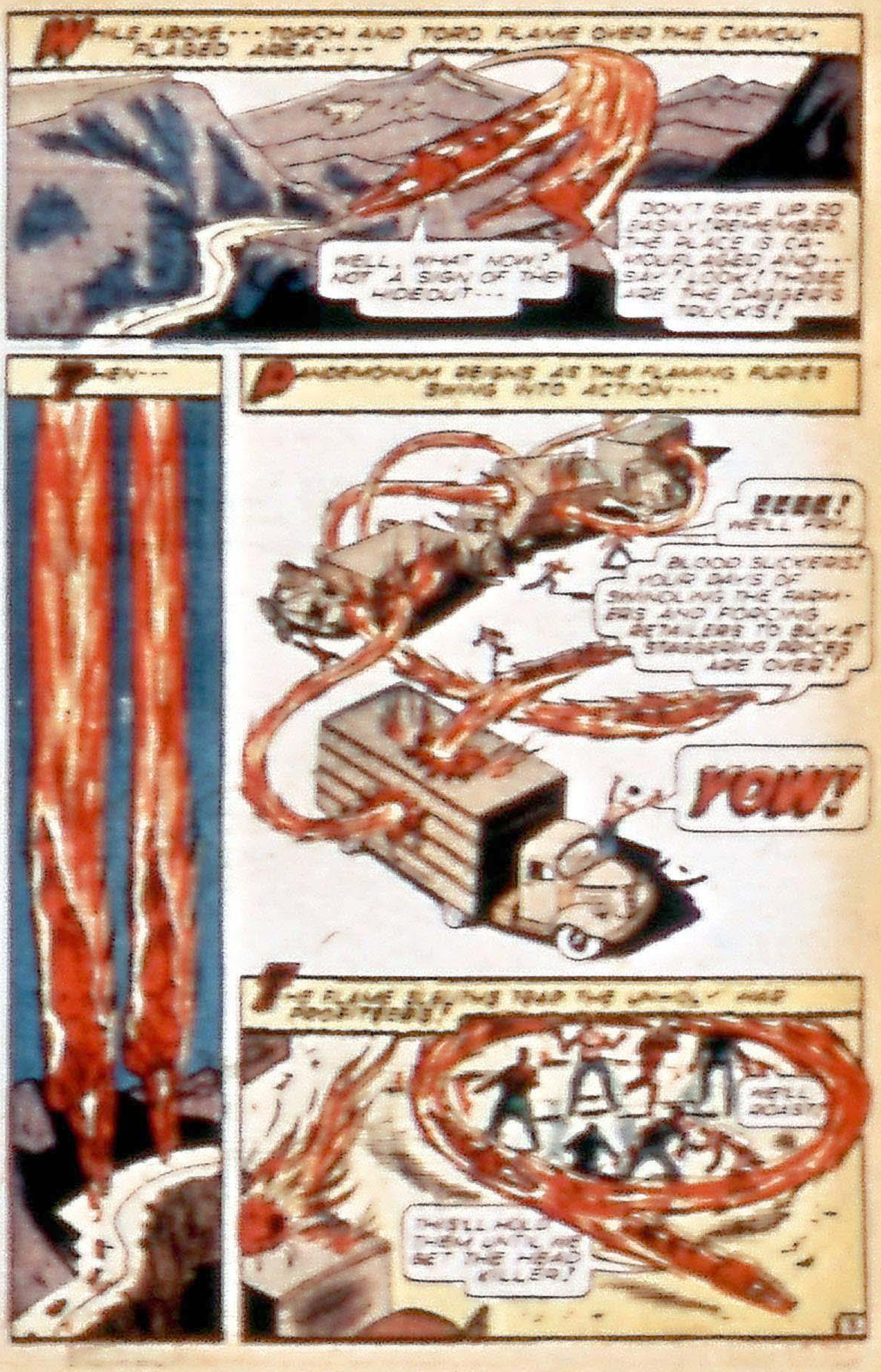

NEWSPAPERS...
FOLD THEM FLAT AND TIE THEM IN BUNDLES ABOUT 12 INCHES HIGH!
MAGAZINES...
TIE THEM IN BUNDLES ABOUT 18 INCHES HIGH!
CARDBOARD BOXES AND CARTONS...
FLATTEN THEM OUT AND TIE THEM IN BUNDLES ABOUT 12 INCHES HIGH!
WASTEBASKET PAPER, WRAPPERS, ENVELOPES, ETC.
PACK DOWN IN A BOX OR BAG SO THAT IT CAN BE CARRIED!

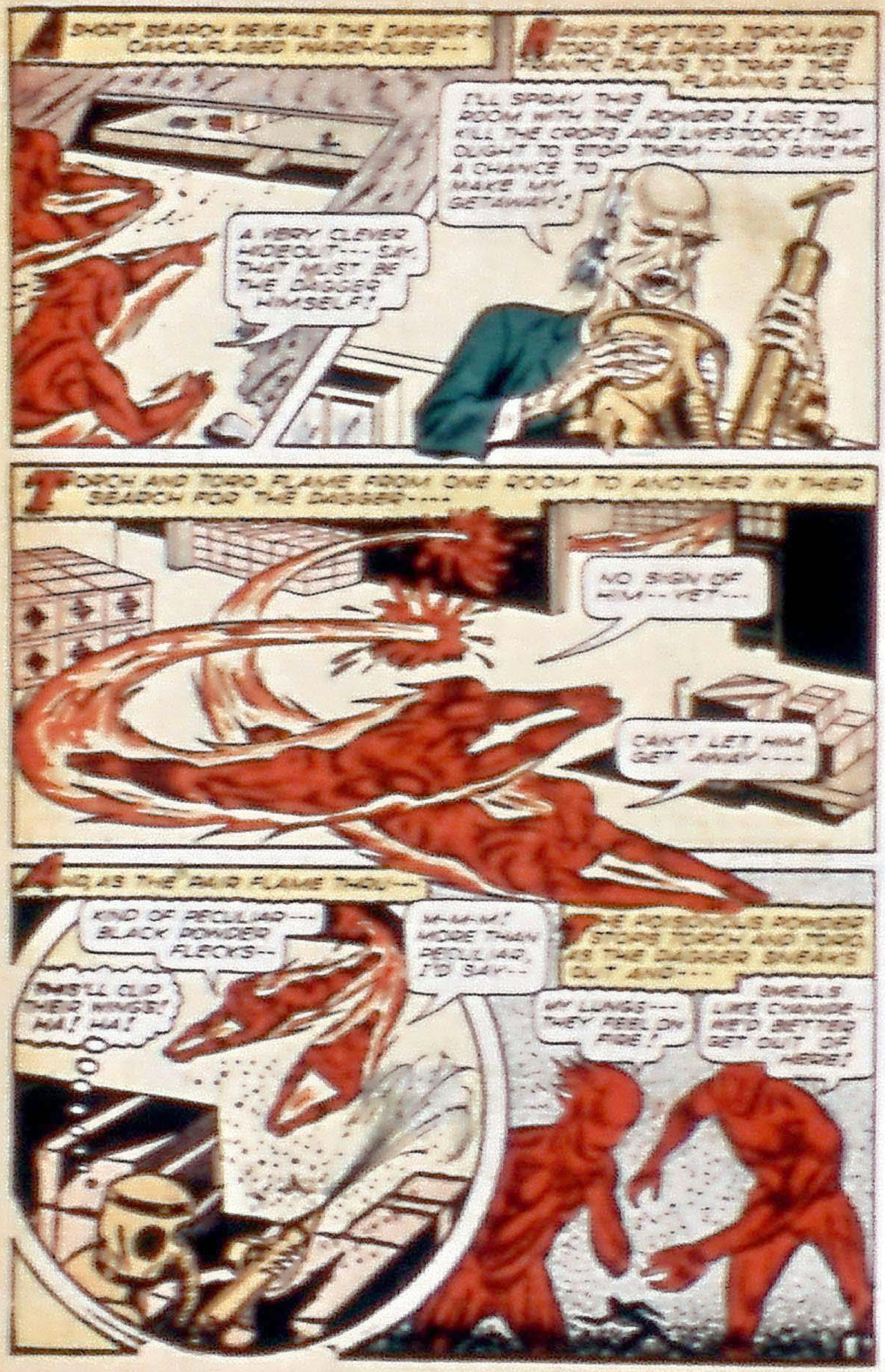

THE HUMAN TORCH
WAR PROFITEERING, A DEADLY THREAT TO VICTORY—ALL THE PREYING ON FARMERS ... KILLING ... TORCH AND TORO TACKLE THESE UNHOLY MONSTERS IN ...
MURDER FOR PROFIT!

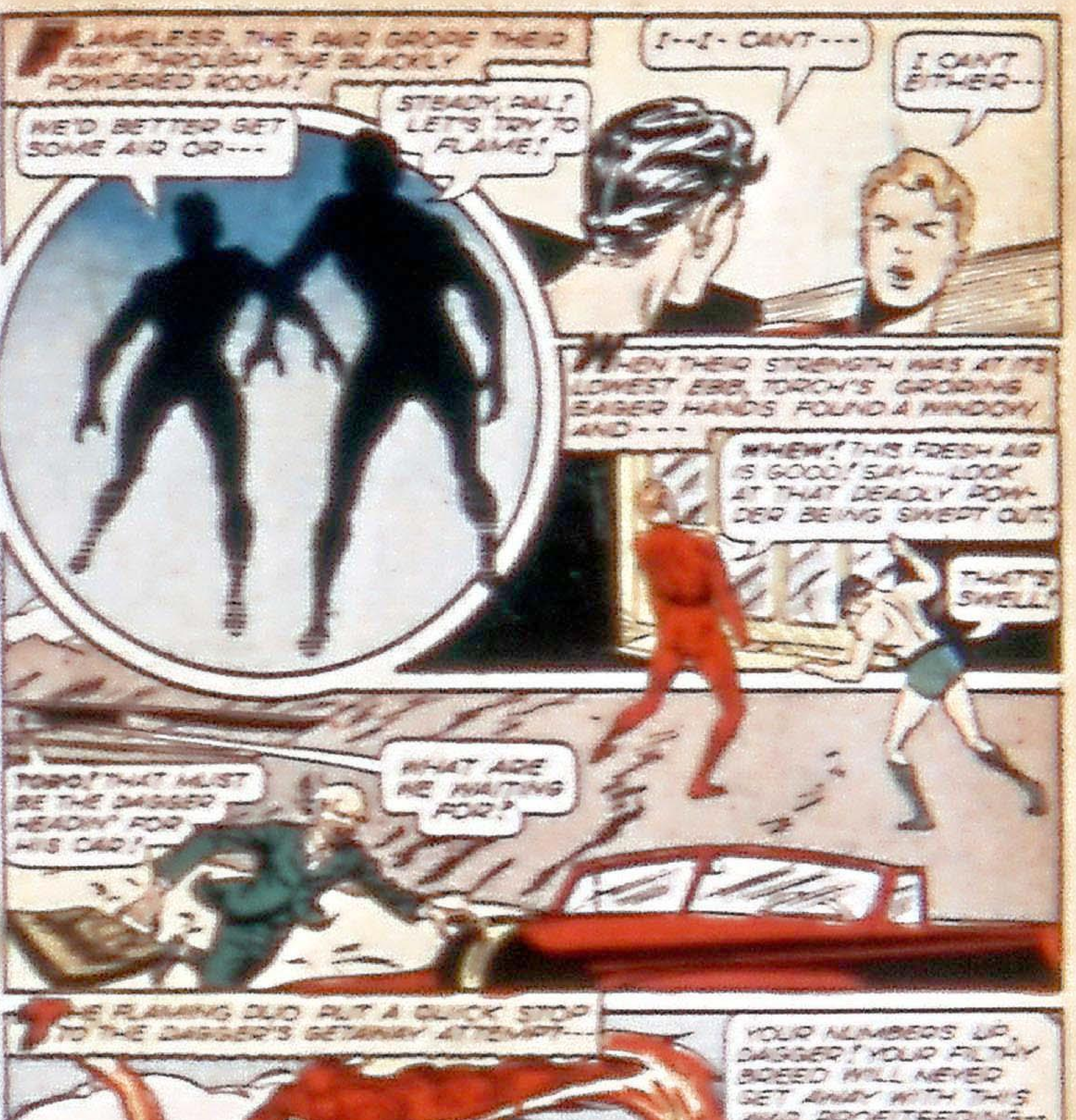

THE FARM COUNTRY OF HAPPY CORNER IS BEING TERRORIZED BY A SYNDICATE OF BRUTAL FOOD BOOTLEGGERS---FARMER RUSS MORGAN DEFIES THE CROOKS AS----
YOU CAN'T INTIMIDATE ME! I'LL--
CUT THE FANCY WORDS! YOU'LL SELL THE BOSS YOUR PRODUCTS AT HIS PRICE OR ELSE---
GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT, RUSS! THESE VILE MEN WILL STOP AT NOTHING! THEY WILL RUIN OUR CROPS AND POISON OUR LIVESTOCK---
NO! NEVER!
WHY YOU--
I'LL GET TORCH AND TORO, DAD--THEY'RE IN THE FIELD!
SO--THE FIRE BRANDS WANT TO PLAY COPS AND ROBBERS! STAY HERE, YOU BRAT!
A SCUFFLE FOLLOWS WHEN SUDDENLY--- SPURTS OF ORANGE FLAME--- AND---
MADY--GET TORCH---AND---
EVERY FARMER AROUND HERE WILL GET A DOSE OF LEAD IF--
RUSS! OH THEY'VE KILLED YOU!
MEANWHILE NOT FAR AWAY ON A NEIGHBORING FARM---
THAT WASN'T THE BACKFIRING OF A CAR, TORCH---THAT---
SOUNDS LIKE A GUN! IT CAME FROM THE DIRECTION OF MORGAN'S FARM! COME ON---

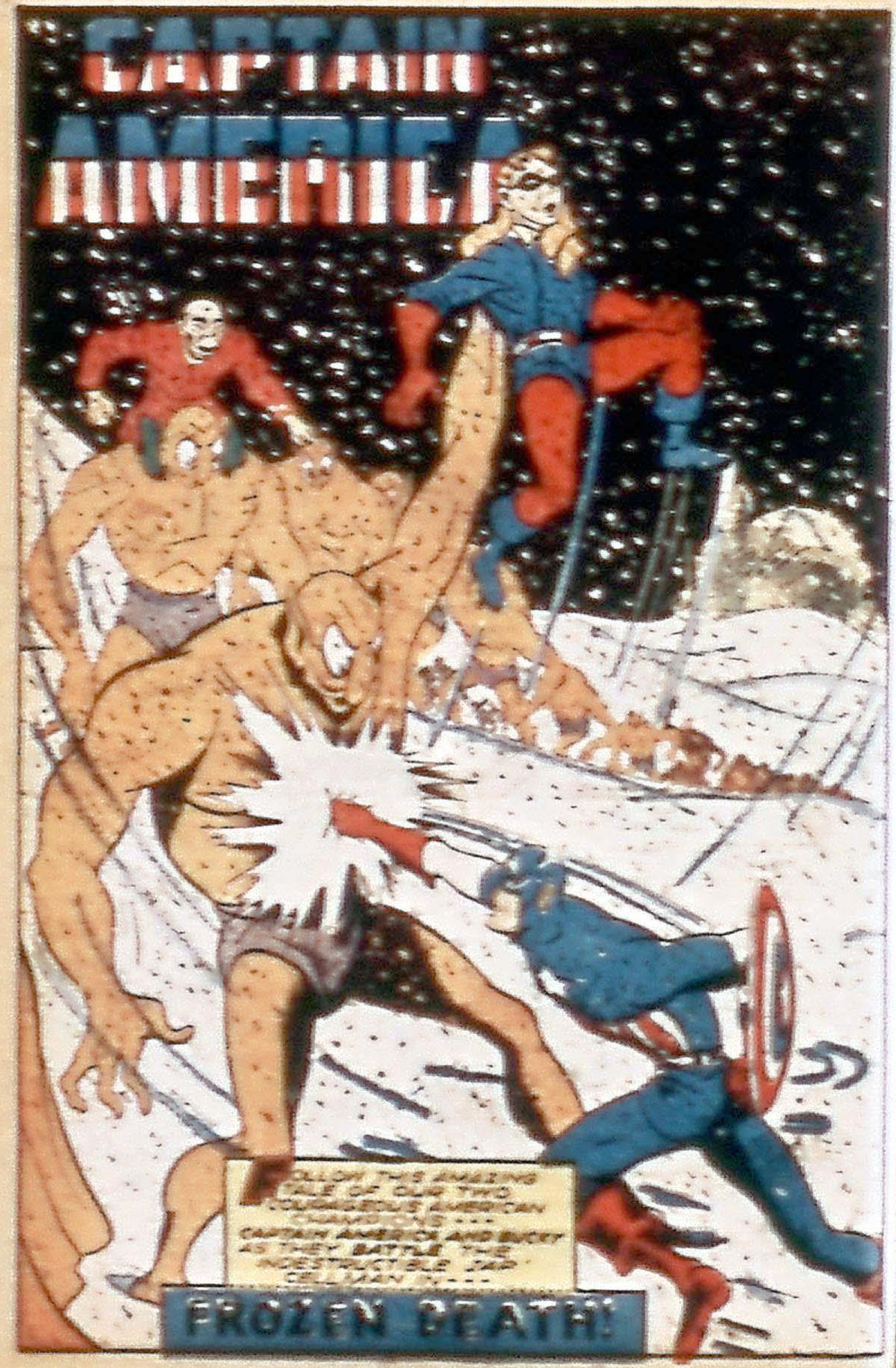

WITHIN SPLIT SECONDS----
THAT'S IRONICAL---HERE WE'VE BEEN POKING AROUND, WAITING FOR THOSE HOODLUMS TO RETURN AND---
WE'RE TOO LATE TORCH---THE KILLERS GOT AWAY---
THE HAPLESS FARMER IS BROUGHT INTO THE HOUSE HE LIVED AND DIED TO PROTECT!
I'LL JOIN YOU IN A MINUTE, TORO! OVERTAKE THAT GETAWAY CAR---THEY CAN'T BE FAR---
AVENGE---PLEASE AVENGE THE COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF MY HUSBAND!
SHORTLY AFTER TORCH JOINS HIS FLAME FLYING MATE---
THERE'S THE CAR---FITS THE DESCRIPTION!
THEY'LL CRACK UP GOING AT THAT CRAZY SPEED!
SUDDENLY---THE CRAZILY CAREENING CAR MISSES THE ROAD BED AND----
YOW!
THE CAR CRASHES, BURSTING INTO FLAMES
DRAW THE FLAMES---MAYBE ONE OF THEM IS STILL ALIVE---
MAYBE!

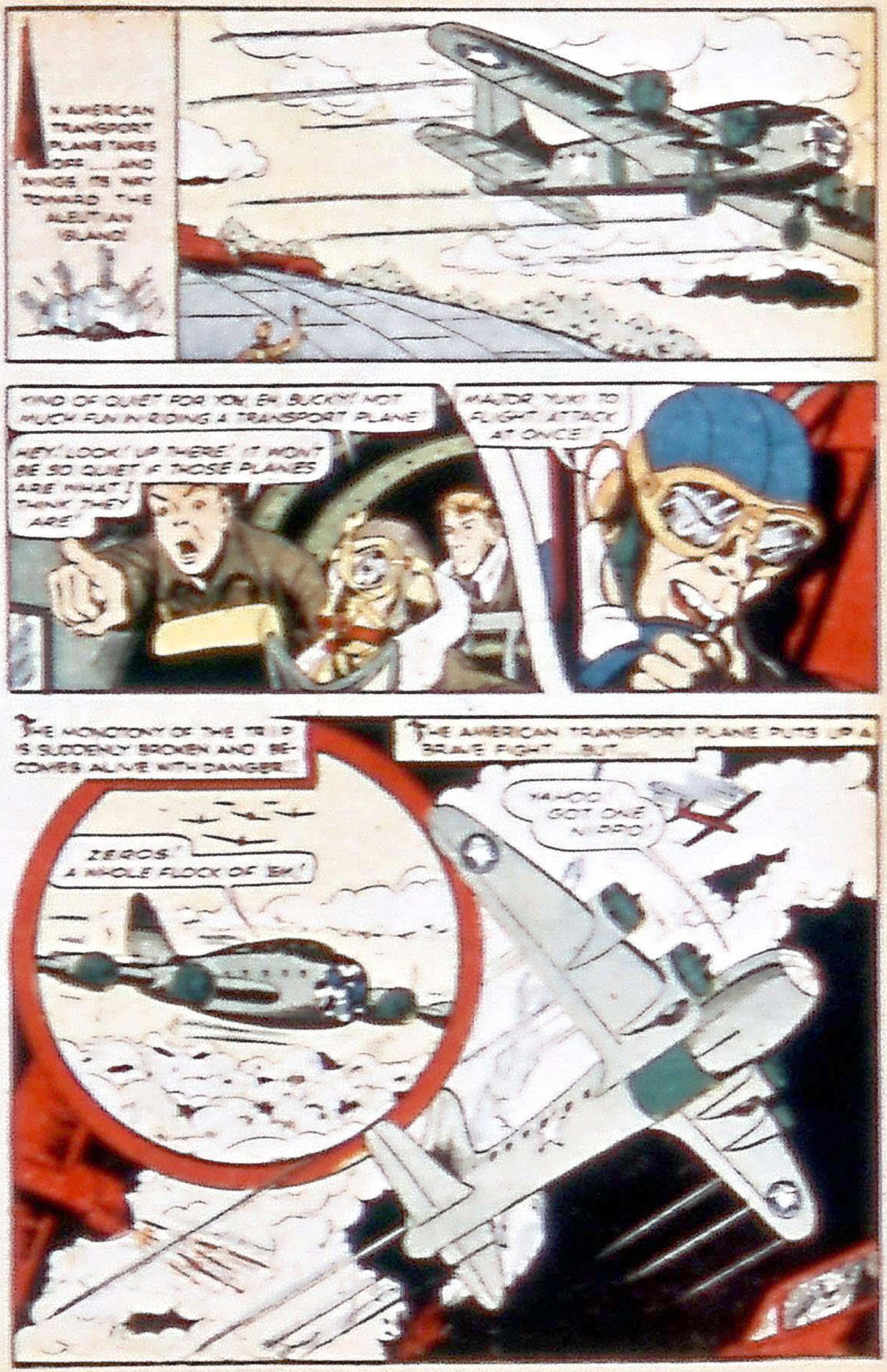

DRAWING THE FIRE AWAY, THE PAIR PULL THE KILLERS OUT OF THE FLAMING WRECKAGE AND ----
HE'S STILL BREATHING, BUT FEEBLY! I'VE GOT TO MAKE HIM TALK---FIND OUT WHERE THE DAGGER'S HIDING PLACE ----
THIS ONE'S DEAD....
TORCH EXTRACTS A CONFESSION FROM THE DYING KILLER'S LIP....
WE KNOW THE DAGGER'S BEHIND THIS SYNDICATE --- THE FARMERS HAVE DESCRIBED HIM--- BUT WHERE'S HIS HIDEOUT?
BEHIND THE MOUNTAINS.... CAMOUFLAGED WAREHOUSE--
MEANWHILE IN THE HIDDEN VALLEY FASTNESS SURROUNDED BY RUGGED MOUNTAINS THE VICIOUS DAGGER AND HIS MOB CARRY OUT THEIR NEFARIOUS WORK!
I'LL MAKE TEN MILLION BUCKS BEFORE THIS WAR'S OVER! I'VE GOT THE FARMERS AND FOOD BUYERS WHERE I WANT THEM!
ALL RIGHT, MEN! MAKE IT SNAPPY! THIS STUFF HAS GOT TO GET TO CHICAGO! THE RESTAURANTS WILL BUY--AND AT OUR PRICE!
WE'LL WRECK THEIR JOINTS, BOSS, IF THEY DON'T BEHAVE -----
IF * ANYBODY COMES SNOOPING THEY'LL BE DEAD BEFORE THEY GET A CHANCE TO BE SORRY....
SURE, BOSS!

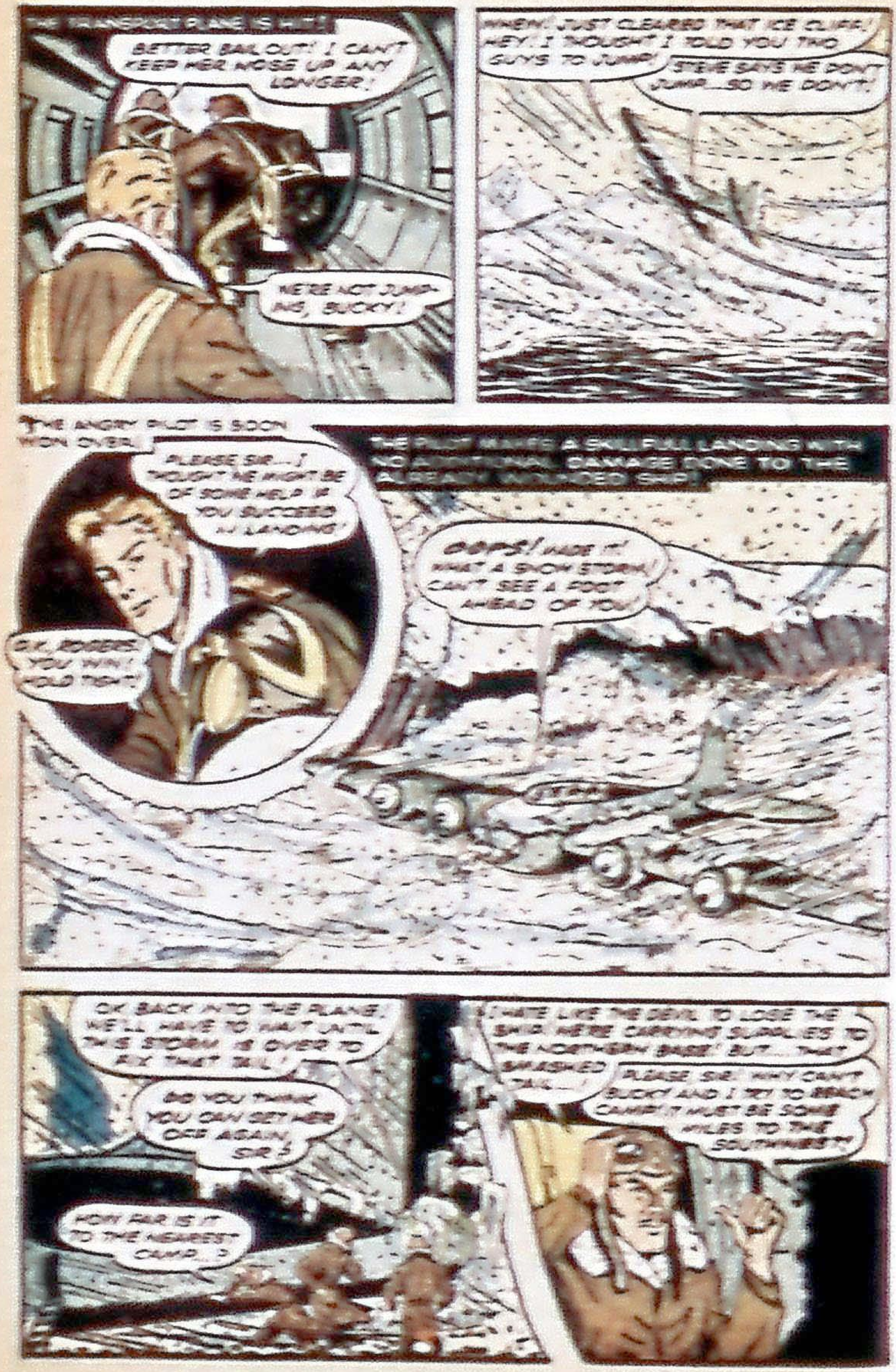

WHILE ABOVE--- TORCH AND TORO FLAME OVER THE CAMOUFLAGED AREA----
WELL, WHAT NOW? NOT A SIGN OF THEIR HIDEOUT---
DON'T GIVE UP SO EASILY! REMEMBER, THE PLACE IS CAMOUFLAGED AND--- SAY! LOOK! THOSE ARE THE DAGGER'S TRUCKS!
THEN---
PANDEMONIUM REIGNS AS THE FLAMING FURIES SWING INTO ACTION----
EEEE! WE'LL FRY
BLOOD SUCKERS! YOUR DAYS OF SWINDLING THE FARMERS AND FORCING RETAILERS TO BUY AT STAGGERING PRICES ARE OVER!
YOW!
THE FLAME SCYTHES TRAP THE UNHOLY WAR PROFITEERS!
WE'LL ROAST!
THIS'LL HOLD THEM UNTIL WE GET THE HEAD KILLER!

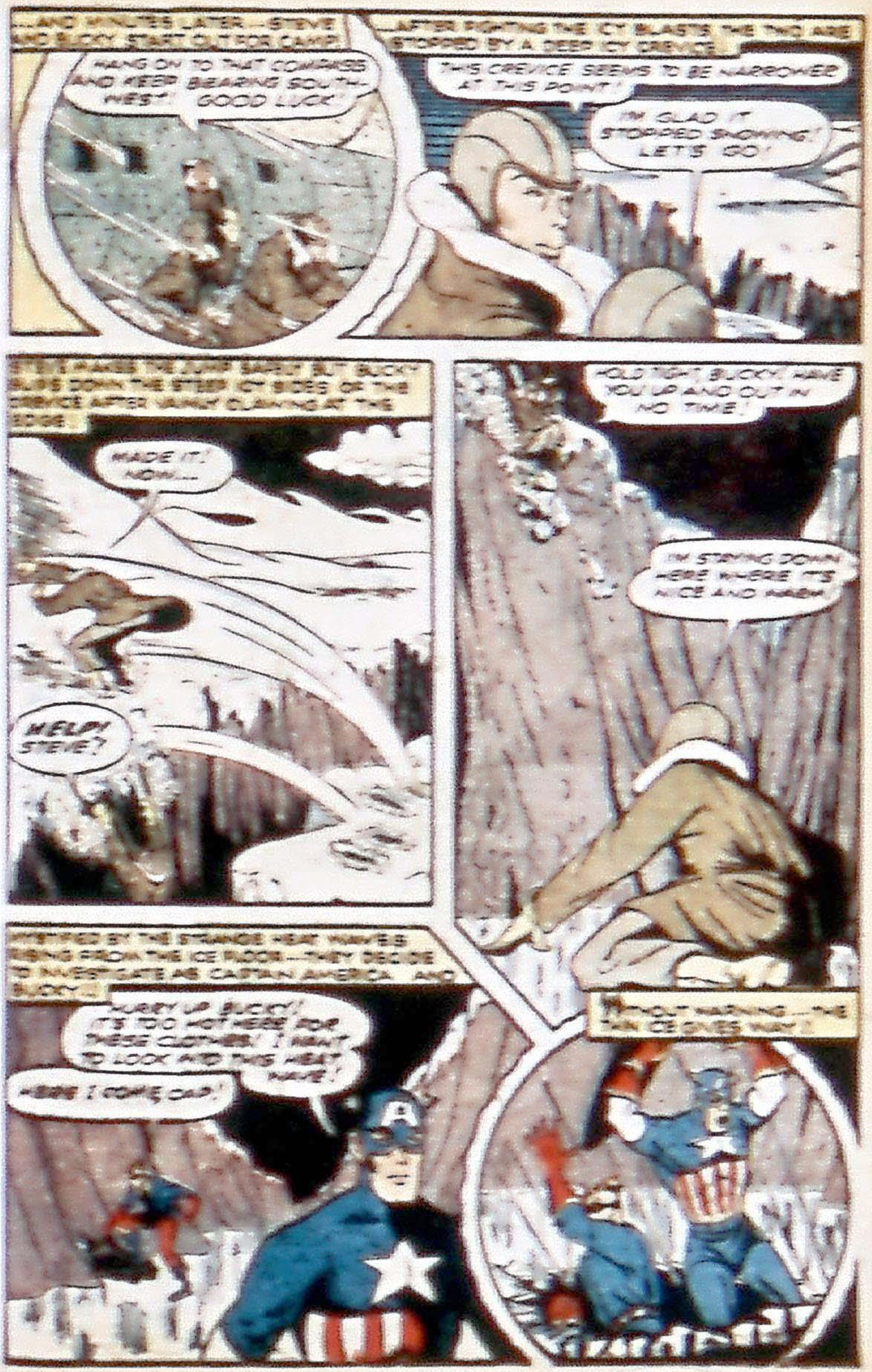

A SHORT SEARCH REVEALS THE DAGGER'S CAMOUFLAGED WAREHOUSE---
HAVING SPOTTED TORCH AND TORO, THE DAGGER MAKES FRANTIC PLANS TO TRAP THE FLAMING DUO---
I'LL SPRAY THIS ROOM WITH THE POWDER I USE TO KILL THE CROPS AND LIVESTOCK! THAT OUGHT TO STOP THEM---AND GIVE ME A CHANCE TO MAKE MY GETAWAY!
A VERY CLEVER HIDEOUT--- SAY, THAT MUST BE THE DAGGER HIMSELF!
TORCH AND TORO FLAME FROM ONE ROOM TO ANOTHER IN THEIR SEARCH FOR THE DAGGER---
NO SIGN OF HIM---YET---
CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY---
AND, AS THE PAIR FLAME THRU---
KIND OF PECULIAR--- BLACK POWDER FLECKS--
M-M-M! MORE THAN PECULIAR, I'D SAY--
THIS'LL CLIP THEIR WINGS! HA! HA!
THE POISONOUS POWDER STOPS TORCH AND TORO AS THE DAGGER SNEAKS OUT AND---
MY LUNGS--- THEY FEEL ON FIRE!
SMELLS LIKE CYANIDE! WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!

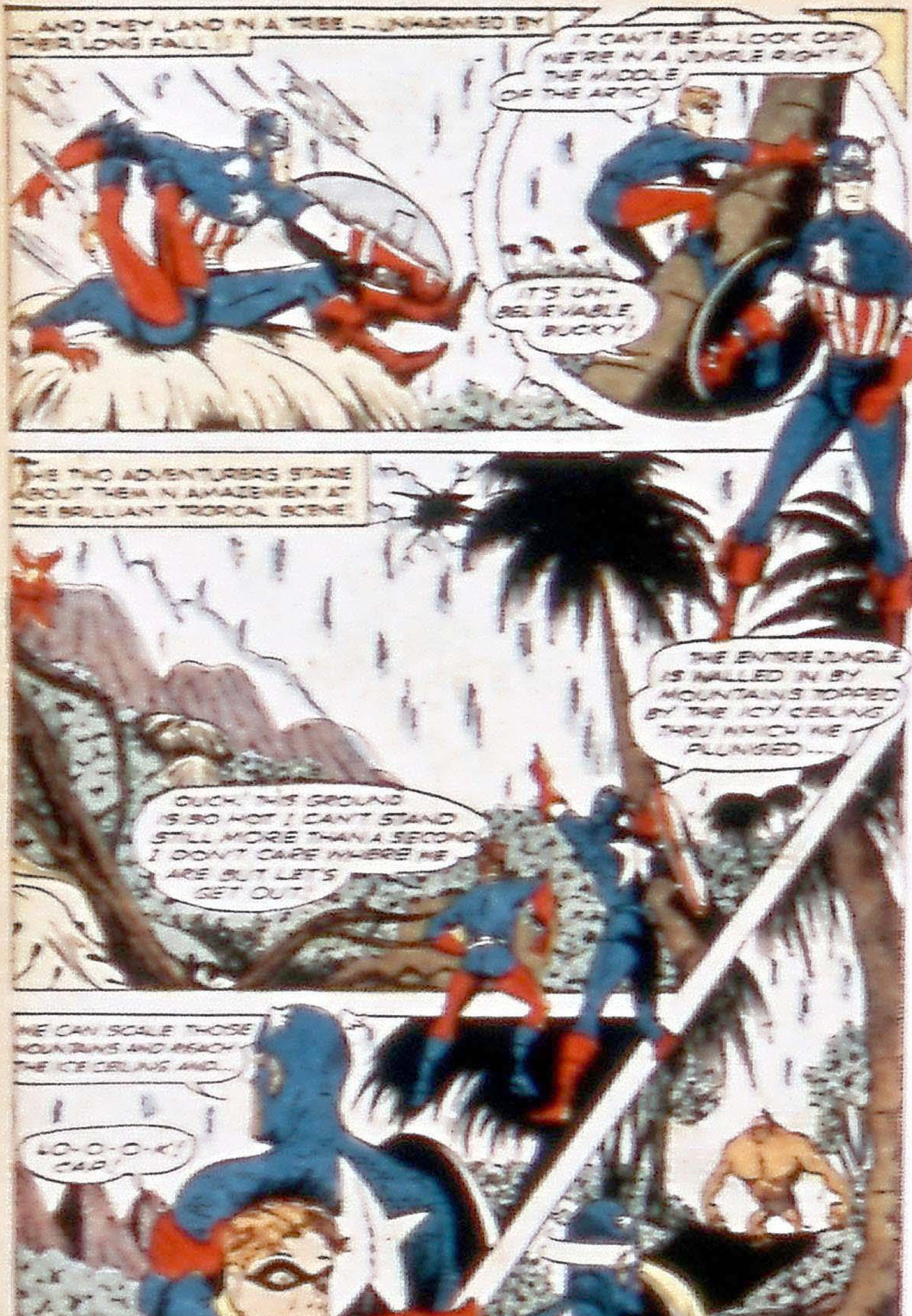

FLAMELESS, THE PAIR GROPE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE BLACKLY POWDERED ROOM!
WE'D BETTER GET SOME AIR OR---
STEADY, PAL! LET'S TRY TO FLAME!
I--I- CAN'T---
I CAN'T EITHER---
WHEN THEIR STRENGTH WAS AT IT'S LOWEST EBB, TORCH'S GROPING EAGER HANDS FOUND A WINDOW AND---
WHEW! THIS FRESH AIR IS GOOD! SAY---LOOK AT THAT DEADLY POWDER BEING SWEPT OUT!
THAT'S SWELL!
TORO! THAT MUST BE THE DAGGER HEADIN' FOR HIS CAR!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
THE FLAMING DUO PUT A QUICK STOP TO THE DAGGER'S GETAWAY ATTEMPT---
YOUR NUMBER'S UP, DAGGER! YOUR FILTHY BREED WILL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS WAR PROFITEERING-- NEVER!
I'LL GET THE POLICE, TORCH!
716
THE END

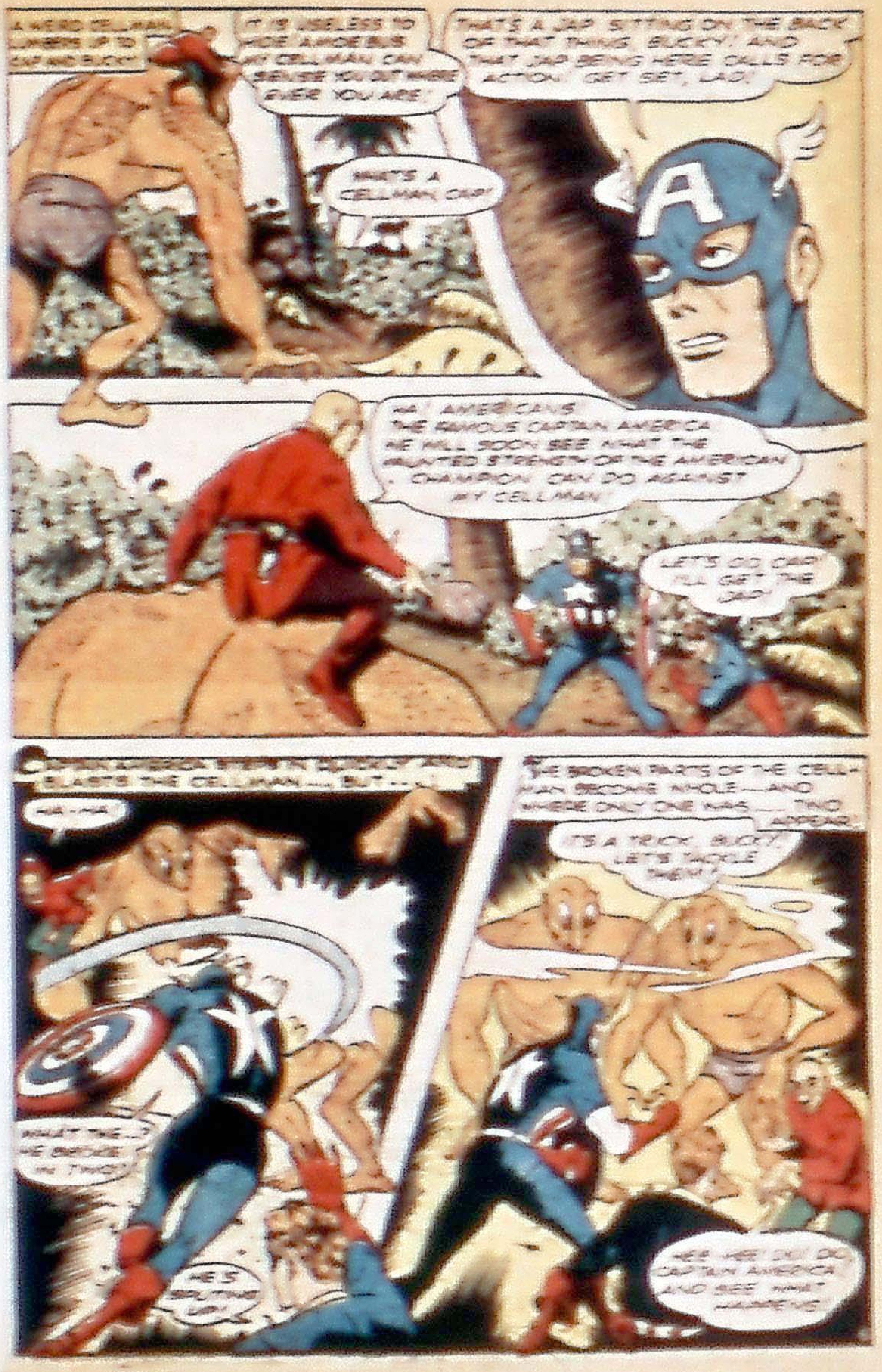

CAPTAIN AMERICA
FOLLOW THIS AMAZING TALE OF OUR TWO COURAGEOUS AMERICAN CHAMPIONS --- CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY AS THEY BATTLE THE INDESTRUCTIBLE ICE CELLMAN IN ---
FROZEN DEATH!


AN AMERICAN TRANSPORT PLANE TAKES OFF ... AND WINGS ITS WAY TOWARD THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS!
KIND OF QUIET FOR YOU, EH BUCKY! NOT MUCH FUN IN RIDING A TRANSPORT PLANE!
HEY! LOOK! UP THERE! IT WON'T BE SO QUIET IF THOSE PLANES ARE WHAT I THINK THEY ARE!
MAJOR YUKI TO FLIGHT. ATTACK AT ONCE!
THE MONOTONY OF THE TRIP IS SUDDENLY BROKEN AND BECOMES ALIVE WITH DANGER!
ZEROS! A WHOLE FLOCK OF 'EM!
THE AMERICAN TRANSPORT PLANE PUTS UP A BRAVE FIGHT... BUT...
YAHOO! GOT ONE NIPPO!


THE TRANSPORT PLANE IS HIT!
BETTER BAIL OUT! I CAN'T KEEP HER NOSE UP ANY LONGER!
WE'RE NOT JUMPING, BUCKY!
WHEW! JUST CLEARED THAT ICE CLIFF! HEY! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TWO GUYS TO JUMP!
STEVE SAYS WE DON'T JUMP...SO WE DON'T!
THE ANGRY PILOT IS SOON WON OVER!
PLEASE SIR... I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE OF SOME HELP IF YOU SUCCEED IN LANDING!
O.K. ROGERS! YOU WIN! HOLD TIGHT!
THE PILOT MAKES A SKILLFULL LANDING WITH NO ADDITIONAL DAMAGE DONE TO THE ALREADY WOUNDED SHIP!
OOPS! MADE IT! WHAT A SNOW STORM! CAN'T SEE A FOOT AHEAD OF YOU!
OK BACK INTO THE PLANE. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THIS STORM IS OVER TO FIX THAT TAIL!
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET HER OFF AGAIN, SIR?
HOW FAR IS IT TO THE NEAREST CAMP...?
I HATE LIKE THE DEVIL TO LOSE THE SHIP. WE'RE CARRYING SUPPLIES TO THE NORTHERN BASE! BUT... THAT SMASHED TAIL...!
PLEASE SIR! WHY CAN'T BUCKY AND I TRY TO REACH CAMP? IT MUST BE SOME MILES TO THE SOUTHWEST!

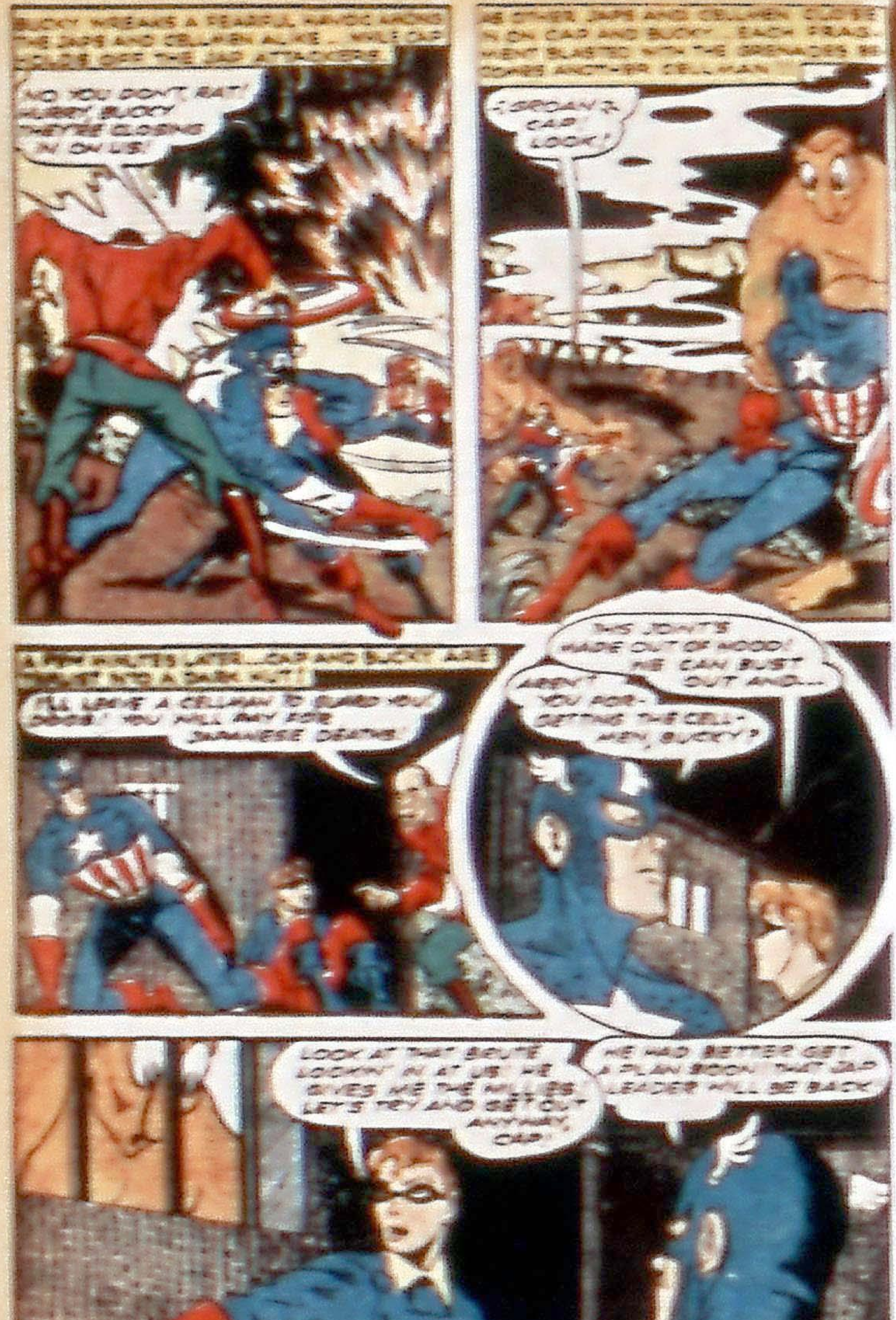

...AND MINUTES LATER—STEVE AND BUCKY START OUT FOR CAMP!
HANG ON TO THAT COMPASS AND KEEP BEARING SOUTH-WEST! GOOD LUCK!
...AFTER FIGHTING THE ICY BLASTS THE TWO ARE STOPPED BY A DEEP ICY CREVICE!
THIS CREVICE SEEMS TO BE NARROWER AT THIS POINT!
I'M GLAD IT STOPPED SNOWING! LET'S GO!
STEVE MAKES THE JUMP SAFELY BUT BUCKY SLIDES DOWN THE STEEP ICY SIDES OF THE CREVICE AFTER VAINLY CLAWING AT THE EDGE!
MADE IT! NOW...
HELP! STEVE!
HOLD TIGHT, BUCKY! HAVE YOU UP AND OUT IN NO TIME!
I'M STAYING DOWN HERE WHERE IT'S NICE AND WARM!
MYSTIFIED BY THE STRANGE HEAT WAVES RISING FROM THE ICE FLOOR—THEY DECIDE TO INVESTIGATE AS CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY...!
HURRY UP BUCKY! IT'S TOO HOT HERE FOR THESE CLOTHES! I WANT TO LOOK INTO THIS HEAT WAVE!
HERE I COME CAP!
WITHOUT WARNING ...THE THIN ICE GIVES WAY!

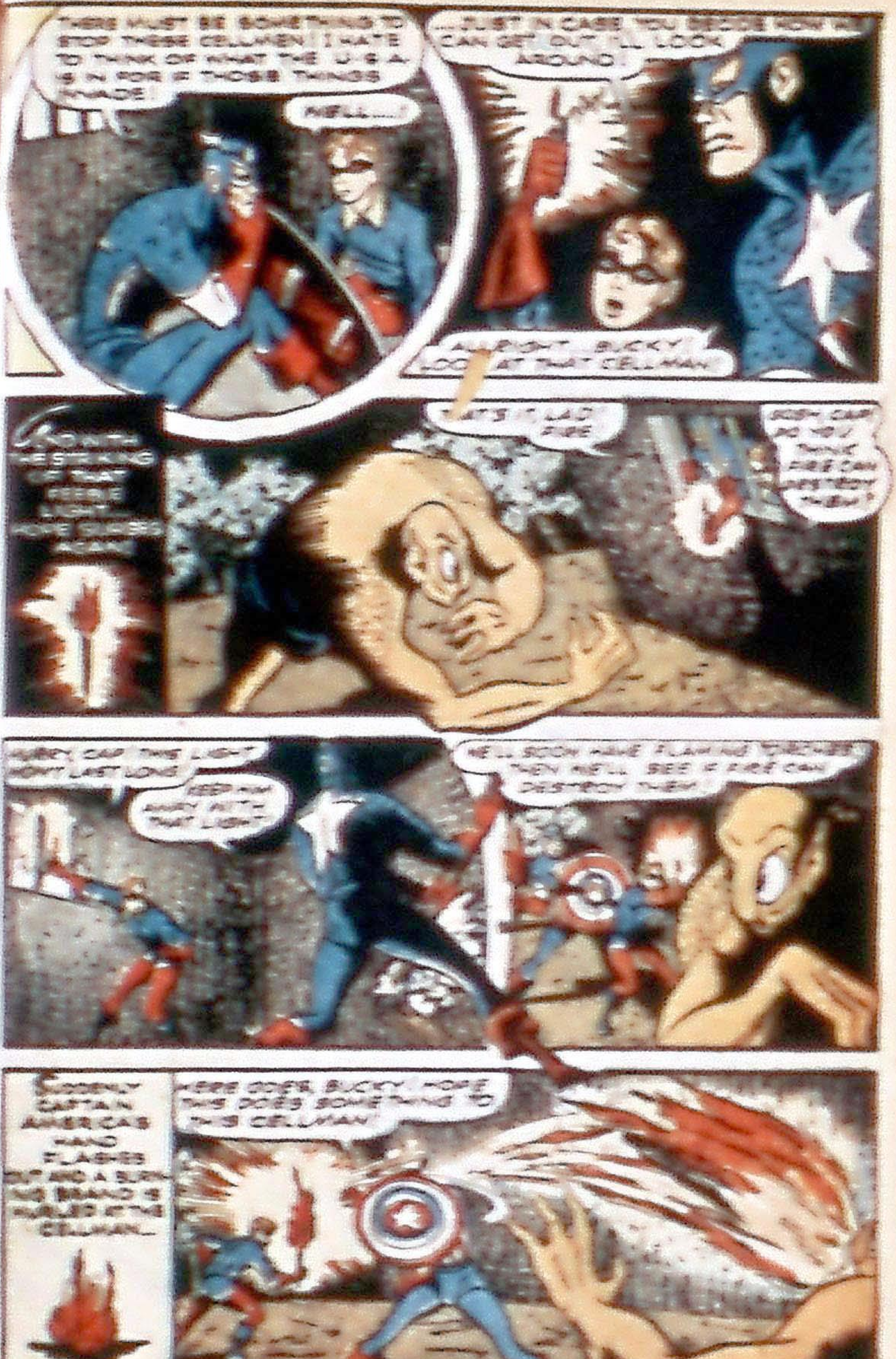

...AND THEY LAND IN A TREE ... UNHARMED BY THEIR LONG FALL!!
IT CAN'T BE!... LOOK CAP! WE'RE IN A JUNGLE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ARTIC!
IT'S UN-BELIEVABLE, BUCKY!
THE TWO ADVENTURERS STARE ABOUT THEM IN AMAZEMENT AT THE BRILLIANT TROPICAL SCENE!
THE ENTIRE JUNGLE IS WALLED IN BY MOUNTAINS TOPPED BY THE ICY CEILING THRU WHICH WE PLUNGED...
OUCH! THIS GROUND IS SO HOT I CAN'T STAND STILL MORE THAN A SECOND! I DON'T CARE WHERE WE ARE BUT LET'S GET OUT!
WE CAN SCALE THOSE MOUNTAINS AND REACH THE ICE CEILING AND...
LO-O-O-OK! CAP!

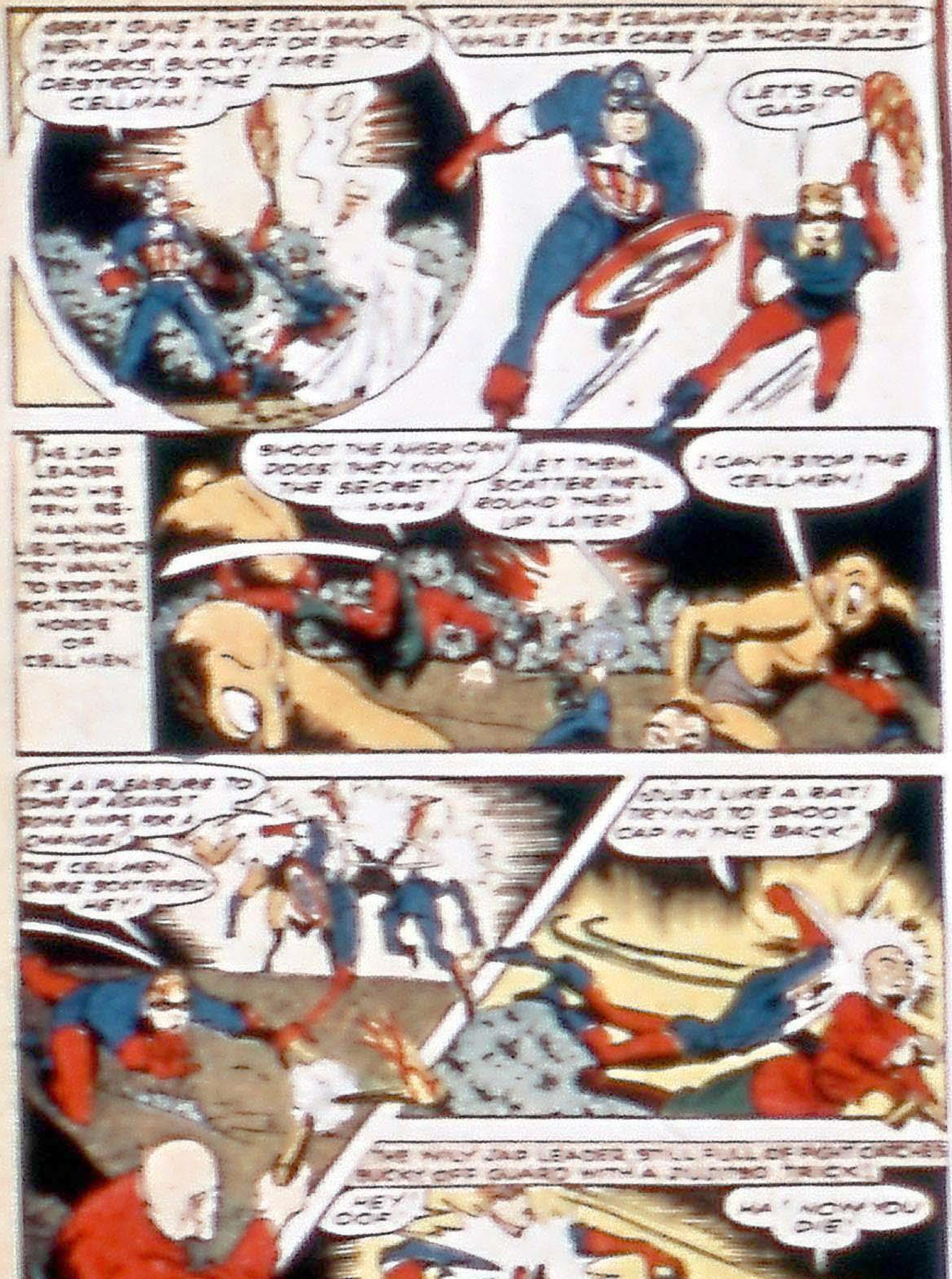

A WEIRD CELLMAN LUMBERS UP TO CAP AND BUCKY!
IT IS USELESS TO HIDE AMOEBUS MY CELLMAN CAN SENSE YOU OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE!
THAT'S A JAP SITTING ON THE BACK OF THAT THING, BUCKY! AND THAT JAP BEING HERE CALLS FOR ACTION! GET SET, LAD!
WHAT'S A CELLMAN, CAP?
HA! AMERICANS THE FAMOUS CAPTAIN AMERICA HE WILL SOON SEE WHAT THE VAUNTED STRENGTH OF THE AMERICAN CHAMPION CAN DO AGAINST MY CELLMAN
LET'S GO CAP! I'LL GET THE JAP!
CAPTAIN AMERICA STEPS IN QUICKLY AND BLASTS THE CELLMAN..., BUT...!
HA-HA!
WHAT THE...! HE BROKE IN TWO!
HE'S SPLITTING UP!
THE BROKEN PARTS OF THE CELLMAN BECOME WHOLE—AND WHERE ONLY ONE WAS.... TWO APPEAR!
IT'S A TRICK, BUCKY! LET'S TACKLE THEM!
HEE-HEE! GO! GO! CAPTAIN AMERICA AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

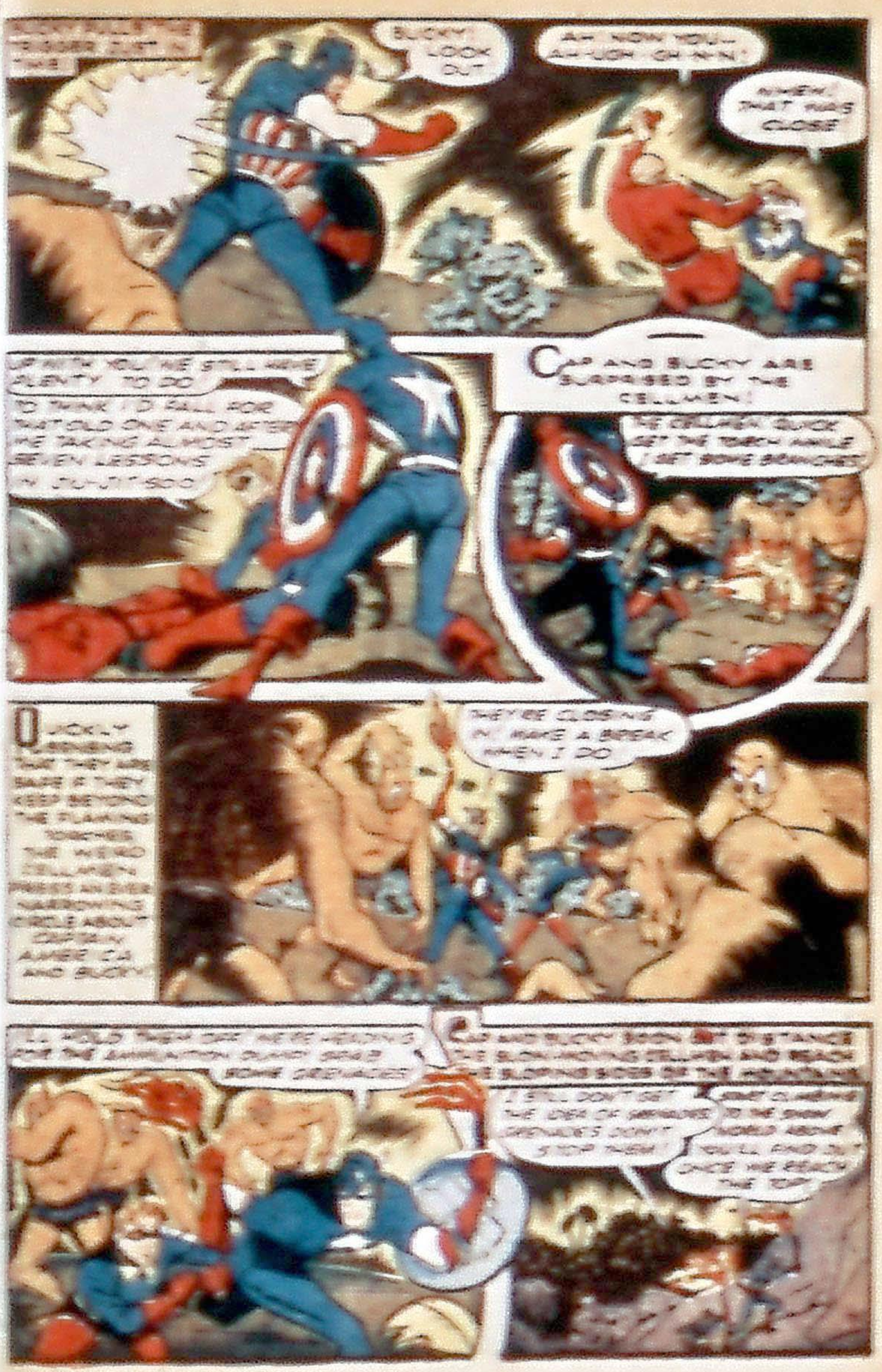
WITH A SHOUT THE TWO AMERICANS LAUNCH THEIR ATTACK ON THE TWO CELLMEN. AND ALMOST INSTANTLY THE TWO CELLMEN SPLIT AND BECOME FOUR!
LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN WORK THE SAME GAG THIS TIME NOW HE DID!
SEE SEE! THEY CAN NOT BE DESTROYED! MY CELL MEN REDOUBLE!
MAY BE THEY CAN'T BE DESTROYED! BUT YOU CAN, JAP!
AS CAPTAIN AMERICA ATTACKS... THE CELLMEN RESPOND TO AN ORDER SCREAMED IN JAPANESE!
AHA — CAN'T BREATHE!
HERE I COME, CAP!
NO! NO! 変美
THE WEIRD CREATURES POSSESSING SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH HOLD THE TWO IN A VISE LIKE GRIP THAT THREATENS TO CRUSH THEM MOMENTARILY ——
HEE-HEE! EVEN THE GREAT STRENGTH OF CAPTAIN AMERICA IS OF NO AVAIL AGAINST THEM! I WILL RELEASE YOU — TO SHOW WHAT IS IN STORE FOR THE U.S.A.!
AS THEY ARE BEING LED CAPTIVE TOWARD HIS CAMP—THE JAP UNFOLDS A WEIRD TALE OF THE ORIGIN OF THE CELLMEN!
I TOO BROKE THRU THE ICE AS YOU DID TEN YEARS AGO!
"DURING THE LONG YEARS BEING A SCIENTIST I EXPERIMENTED WITH THE AMOEBA IN THE SLIME AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER---!

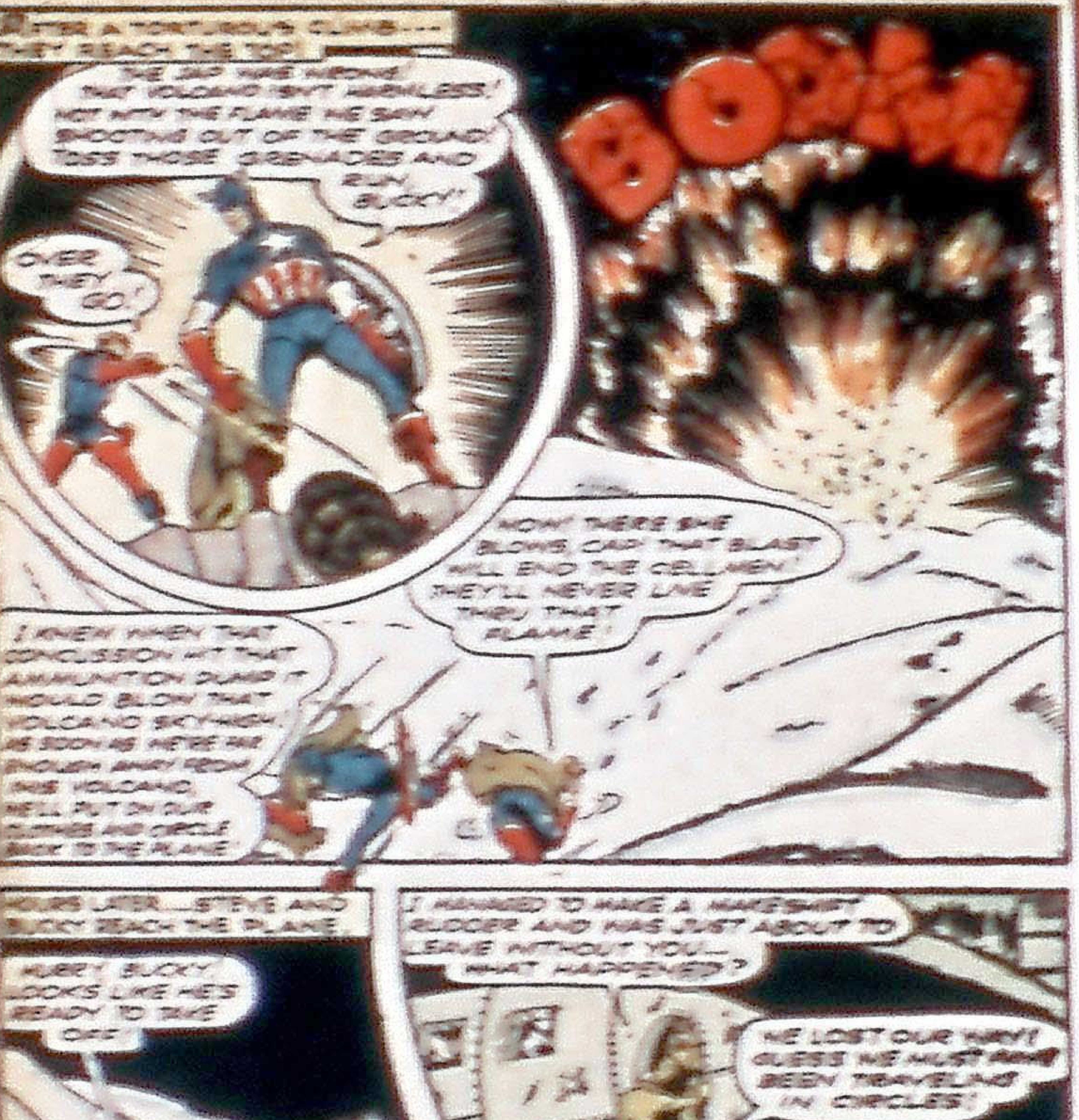
HEY LOOK
...AND AFTER A WHILE I DEVELOPED MY CELLMEN! HA! I SEE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLCANIC PHENOMENA
THIS WHOLE PLATEAU IS THE CRATER OF A VOLCANO! WHAT TH...?
THE VOLCANO IS HARMLESS HA HA! I SEE YOU ARE IMPRESSED!
THERE BEFORE THE EYES OF THE TWO HORDES OF CELLMEN ARE BEING PUT THRU A DRILL BY JAP OFFICERS!
HEE! HEE! YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THE CELLMEN ARE TRAINED TO USE THE WEAPONS OF WAR! I TRUST TO YOUR IMAGINATION WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I LEAD THEM ON YOUR DOOMED COUNTRY!
T BUCKY HAS A PLAN...AND...CAPTAIN AMERICA DIVERTS THE JAP.
BOY A HANDFUL OF THESE GRENADES AND WE'LL SPREAD THESE JAPS AND CELLMEN ALL OVER THE PLACE
T A SIGNAL ...CAP CLEARS A PATH FOR BUCKY!
YOU'RE NOT SPLITTING IN TWO THIS TIME! JUST A PUSH TO GET BUCKY PAST!
COMIN' THRU! HERE GOES!


BUCKY WREAKS A FEARFUL HAVOC AMONG THE JAPS AND CELLMEN ALIKE... WHILE CAP HOLDS OFF THE JAP ATTACKERS
NO YOU DON'T, RAT! HURRY, BUCKY! THEY'RE CLOSING IN ON US!
THE OTHER JAPS AND CELLMEN CLOSE IN ON CAP AND BUCKY... EACH FRAGMENT BLASTED WITH THE GRENADES BECOMES ANOTHER CELLMAN!
-GROAN- CAP LOOK!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...CAP AND BUCKY ARE THRUST INTO A DARK HUT!
I'LL LEAVE A CELLMAN TO GUARD YOU DOGS! YOU WILL PAY FOR JAPANESE DEATHS!
THIS JOINT'S MADE OUT OF WOOD! WE CAN BUST OUT AND--
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING THE CELLMEN, BUCKY?
LOOK AT THAT BRUTE LOOKIN' IN AT US! HE GIVES ME THE WILLIES. LET'S TRY AND GET OUT ANYWAY, CAP!
WE HAD BETTER GET A PLAN SOON. THAT JAP LEADER WILL BE BACK


THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO STOP THESE CELLMEN! I HATE TO THINK OF WHAT THE U.S.A. IS IN FOR IF THOSE THINGS INVADE!
WELL....!
...JUST IN CASE YOU DECIDE HOW WE CAN GET OUT I'LL LOOK AROUND!
ALRIGHT, BUCKY! LOOK AT THAT CELLMAN!
SOON AT THE STRIKING OF THAT EERIE LIGHT, HOPE SURGES AGAIN!
THAT'S IT, LAD! FIRE!
GOSH, CAP, DO YOU THINK FIRE CAN DESTROY THEM?
HURRY, CAP! THIS LIGHT WON'T LAST LONG!
KEEP 'EM AWAY WITH THAT LIGHT!
WE'LL SOON HAVE FLAMING TORCHES! THEN WE'LL SEE IF FIRE CAN DESTROY THEM!
SUDDENLY CAPTAIN AMERICA'S HAND FLASHES OUT AND A BURNING BRAND IS HURLED AT THE CELLMAN...
HERE GOES, BUCKY! HOPE THIS DOES SOMETHING TO THIS CELLMAN!


GREAT GUNS! THE CELLMAN WENT UP IN A PUFF OF SMOKE! IT WORKS, BUCKY! FIRE DESTROYS THE CELLMAN!
YOU KEEP THE CELLMEN AWAY FROM ME WHILE I TAKE CARE OF THOSE JAPS!
LET'S GO CAP!
THE JAP LEADER AND HIS FEW RE-MAINING LIEUTENANTS TRY VAINLY TO STOP THE SCATTERING HORDE OF CELLMEN!
SHOOT THE AMERICAN DOGS! THEY KNOW THE SECRET!
BANG
LET THEM SCATTER! WE'LL ROUND THEM UP LATER!
I CAN'T STOP THE CELLMEN!
IT'S A PLEASURE TO COME UP AGAINST SOME NIPS FOR A CHANGE!
THE CELLMEN SURE SCATTERED, HEY?
JUST LIKE A RAT! TRYING TO SHOOT CAP IN THE BACK!
THE WILY JAP LEADER STILL FULL OF FIGHT CATCHES BUCKY OFF GUARD WITH A DUSTING TRICK!
HEY OOF
HA! NOW YOU DIE!


BUCKY PULLS THE TRIGGER JUST IN TIME
BUCKY! LOOK OUT
AH NOW YOU— AH-UGH-OH-H-H!
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE
UP WITH YOU! WE STILL HAVE PLENTY TO DO!
TO THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT OLD ONE AND AFTER ME TAKING ALMOST SEVEN LESSONS IN JU-JITSU TOO!
CAP AND BUCKY ARE SURPRISED BY THE CELLMEN!
THE CELLMEN! QUICK GET THE TORCH WHILE I GET SOME BRANCHES!
QUICKLY LEARNING THAT THEY ARE SAFE IF THEY KEEP BEYOND THE FLAMING TORCHES, THE WEIRD CELLMEN FORM AN EVER NARROWING CIRCLE ABOUT CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY!
THEY'RE CLOSING IN! MAKE A BREAK WHEN I DO!
I'LL HOLD THEM OFF. WE'RE HEADING FOR THE AMMUNITION DUMP! GRAB SOME GRENADES!
CAP AND BUCKY SOON OUT DISTANCE THE SLOW-MOVING CELLMEN AND REACH THE SLOPING SIDES OF THE MOUNTAIN
I STILL DON'T GET THE IDEA OF GRENADES! GRENADES DON'T STOP THEM!
JUST CLIMBING TO THE SNOW WORLD ABOVE! YOU'LL FIND OUT ONCE WE REACH THE TOP!


AFTER A TORTUROUS CLIMB... THEY REACH THE TOP!
THE JAP WAS WRONG! THAT VOLCANO ISN'T HARMLESS! NOT WITH THE FLAME WE SAW SHOOTING OUT OF THE GROUND! TOSS THOSE GRENADES AND RUN, BUCKY!
OVER THEY GO!
BOOM
WOW! THERE SHE BLOWS, CAP! THAT BLAST WILL END THE CELLMEN! THEY'LL NEVER LIVE THRU THAT FLAME!
I KNEW WHEN THAT CONCUSSION HIT THAT AMMUNITION DUMP IT WOULD BLOW THAT VOLCANO SKY-HIGH! AS SOON AS WE'RE FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THIS VOLCANO, WE'LL PUT ON OUR CLOTHES AND CIRCLE BACK TO THE PLANE!
HOURS LATER...STEVE AND BUCKY REACH THE PLANE.
HURRY, BUCKY, LOOKS LIKE HE'S READY TO TAKE OFF!
WE'RE SUNK IF HE DOES! LET'S RUN FOR IT!
I MANAGED TO MAKE A MAKESHIFT RUDDER AND WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE WITHOUT YOU... WHAT HAPPENED?
WE LOST OUR WAY! GUESS WE MUST HAVE BEEN TRAVELING IN CIRCLES!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA TELLING HIM THAT FAIRY TALE?
HE'D NEVER BELIEVE THE REAL STORY!
THE END

THE SARGE'S SONG

OVER in back of the barracks Will was scrubbing clothes in the river. And as usual he was singing. He had a clear sweet voice. It sounded good . . . to everyone but Humphrey, the top kick.

Hump stood back of me now. "Fine army," he snorted after a couple of minutes of listening. "We're supposed to have men in this outfit. Instead of that—Hey! You. Put a lid on it!"

Will turned around. There was something sort of impish about him. I'd often seen the guy under fire. He'd usually managed to pull through.

Now he picked up his washing and came over. He said, "There are a lot of people in this world who haven't half enough to do. If they did have they wouldn't worry about others."

Hump snorted, "Sure you. After chow we'll see about that. Down at the wharves!"

I'd seen this sort of thing before and knew just what to expect. The sarge seemed to like to pick on Will, who was half his size, one of those little guys who got around without making any noise like a shadow. The sarge could have busted him in half easily.

I pulled out. No sense hanging around listening to them argue. I admired Will for standing up to Hump. I don't know how they made out this time. I stayed out of their way until chow time.

Will showed up as usual. We'd been sort of buddies ever since we landed here. Now he parked alongside of me. Everyone was busy loading up.

Will busted a hunk of bread in squares, buttered one. He said, "I found out something today, Pete."

"Yeah? What was it? A song the sarge likes?"

Across from us someone laughed. "That'll be the day. It'll be the day when Will sings it for him, too."

Will said dramatically, "Humphrey happens to be a composer!"

"Y'actually mean . . . the sarge? A composer?" someone asked.

Will nodded, a smile of satisfaction around his mouth. "I knew you would find it difficult to believe. But it is the truth. The sarge is a composer."

"You see, Humphrey's always berating me for singing. It seemed funny how he always jumped on me. He seems to bother no one else. I couldn't understand it."

The importance of this was beginning to get the guys. Across from us Mike Hanrahan said, "Look, butch. How do you know the sarge is trying to write music?"

"I saw some of his notes," Will announced triumphantly. "If you have noticed he spends a good deal of time by himself. He always seems to be writing. If you have ever asked him, no doubt he told you he was writing letters, if he didn't tell you to go to blazes instead!"

Someone laughed. The whole crowd was talking about it by then. I felt kind of leery inside. When this got around the outfit, there'd be fireworks. Will and the sarge would surely have it out.

We were located in a big supply depot at the time. It was our job to unload the ships as they came in. Trucks carted what was needed up front. The rest went into warehouses.

Now, as always, the wharves were piled sky high. We got busy loading trucks. It was raining and there wasn't much cover.

"If somebody'd told me a couple of years ago," Will said, "I'd be doing this, I'd have told them they were nuts. I guess that goes for us all."

"You're not kidding. But don't feel sorry for yourself. Remember the guys up ahead of us."

Will nodded, wiping rain off his chin. "If it wasn't for them do you suppose I'd have blisters on my hands?"

The sarge drifted over. "You're either singing or talking. Swell combination."

"We ought to team up," Will winked at me. "You be the composer—"

"That's something we'll settle later," Hump snarled. "Get busy now and save your breath!"

He started away. And it happened.

It was a sneak attack and a good one. The planes came in from the east, came in low. One minute there was the drone of their engines and the next, ack-ack guns went off with a sullen unrhythmical roar.

Searchlights blazed beams up into the sky and we saw one of the planes come in like a hawk, bombs spewing out of her guts through paths of light. A second later they hit and the earth heaved and the skyline turned to bloody red.

They were medium bombers and they were here to blow us into the middle of next week. It was hellish. I saw two of them go down. I was looking right toward an oil dump over on the east side when it was hit and threw a sheet of flame clear up into the sky. I could see men running.

The sarge tore around a corner. "Get that truck rolling!" he yelled. "Pete, take that P.M. outta there. Give Michaels and his crew room to get by!"

Will dived for the truck in front of me. It lurched ahead and started along the road. Michaels and his gang piled past, engines roaring, as I got the P.M. out of the way.

A second later a bomb ripped through the wharves down the line, went off with a roar and sent me tail over teakettle. Fire broke out. Bits of wreckage came thumping down all around me.

In the blaze of searchlights, I saw a couple of our own fighters. I saw one of them go twisting down, flame and smoke licking along its twisted body.

Fire was raging in a half dozen places. We had to fight that. The smell of burning oil swept down on the wind. Rain had turned the streets to mud wallows. I saw men lying on the ground, bodies twisted, arms outflung. It made me sick, made my teeth chatter.

Somehow we kept going. Nothing was real save the hellish ruin lying around us. The fellows I worked with were like something out of a dream. I wish it had been.

HOURS later it was all over. There was still fire to fight, and we kept at it till it was almost all we could do to stand up. Then we were herded into a chow shack for coffee and grub. I was almost too tired to eat. I gulped coffee till someone said "Corporal Williard here?"

Will was beside me but I hadn't noticed till now. The same guy said, "Report to the sick bay. Right away."

Will said "Come along, Pete. Don't look now but you've got a little moustache across your mouth."

Over at the hospital they told us Sergeant Humphrey had asked for Will. I guess we both hurried then. Will looked scared, and almost human for the first time. I knew as well as he that the sarge had got the works during the night.

Hump was off by himself in a little room. One look was enough. He was the color of glue. He was breathing hard.

He made a sound with his mouth. His head turned. I'd rather it had been me than to see him that way. Will didn't move. I gave him a shove. He bent down putting his ear close to the sarge to hear what he said.

Will straightened up again. He turned away so he wasn't facing either of us. I couldn't hear what the sarge had said. Will backed up a little. I could see the corner of his mouth working. He stood there like a cigar store Indian.

Finally he moved. He dug a sheet of paper out of the sarge's jacket. He opened it and stared down. It looked like a piece of sheet music with those queer notes all over it and words between the lines.

And then . . . Will sang. He was tired. All in. But he sang and it was good. About a place out in the hills somewhere. There were clouds in it and even flowers, and I think there was a dame but I don't remember for sure. All I remember was Will's voice ringing out softly with something strong and sure and vibrant in it I'd never heard before. Something that made me tight-throated, made my eyes hot around the edges.

I suppose it had been the strain of the fight. I suppose it was the way the sergeant had relaxed, sitting around at odd moments, composing. He was hard-boiled and tough. Everyone knew it. He had to be. We had a battle to win.

And it was his song, the one he had composed, Will was singing. After it was over Will just stood there. I didn't look at him.

Sure, I expected the sarge to finish up any second. But he didn't. He pulled through.

IT was later, days later when we saw him again. He looked more natural at last. He couldn't sit up yet. He wouldn't be able to for a long while.

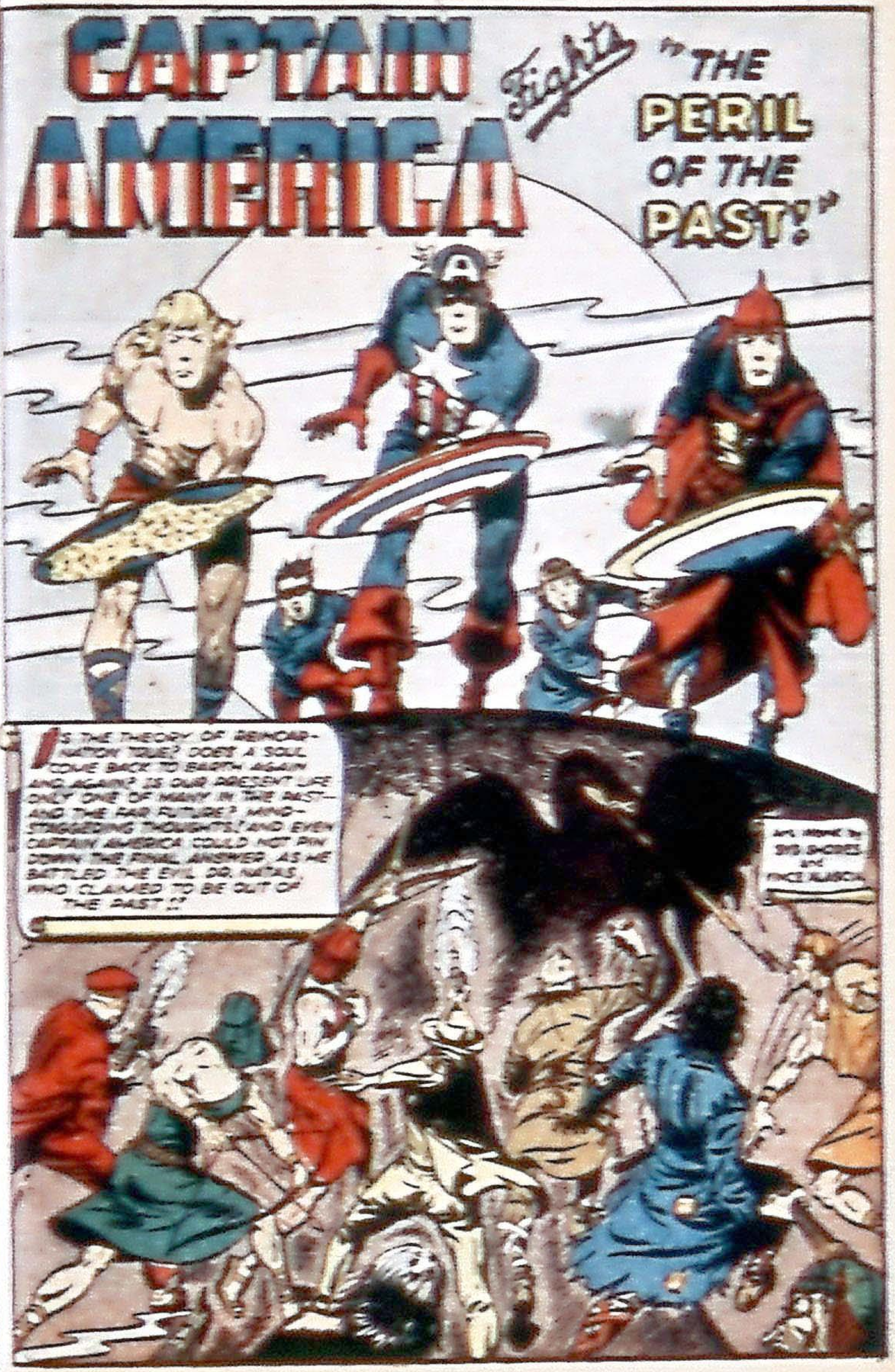
He said, "Y'know, Will. That song of mine . . ." He peered at Will and at me, while his tan got a reddish tint. He chuckled.

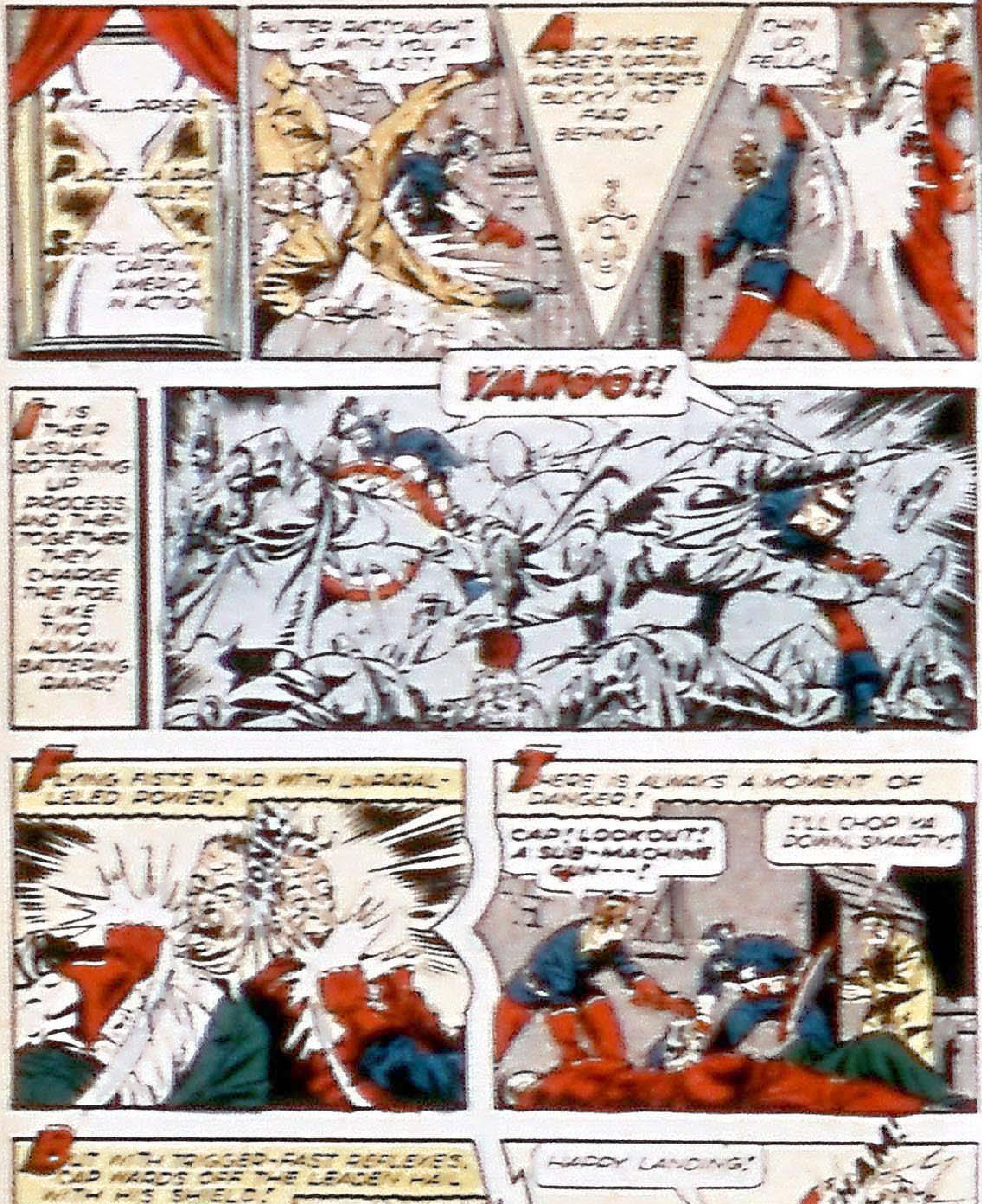
Will asked, "What about it, sarge?"

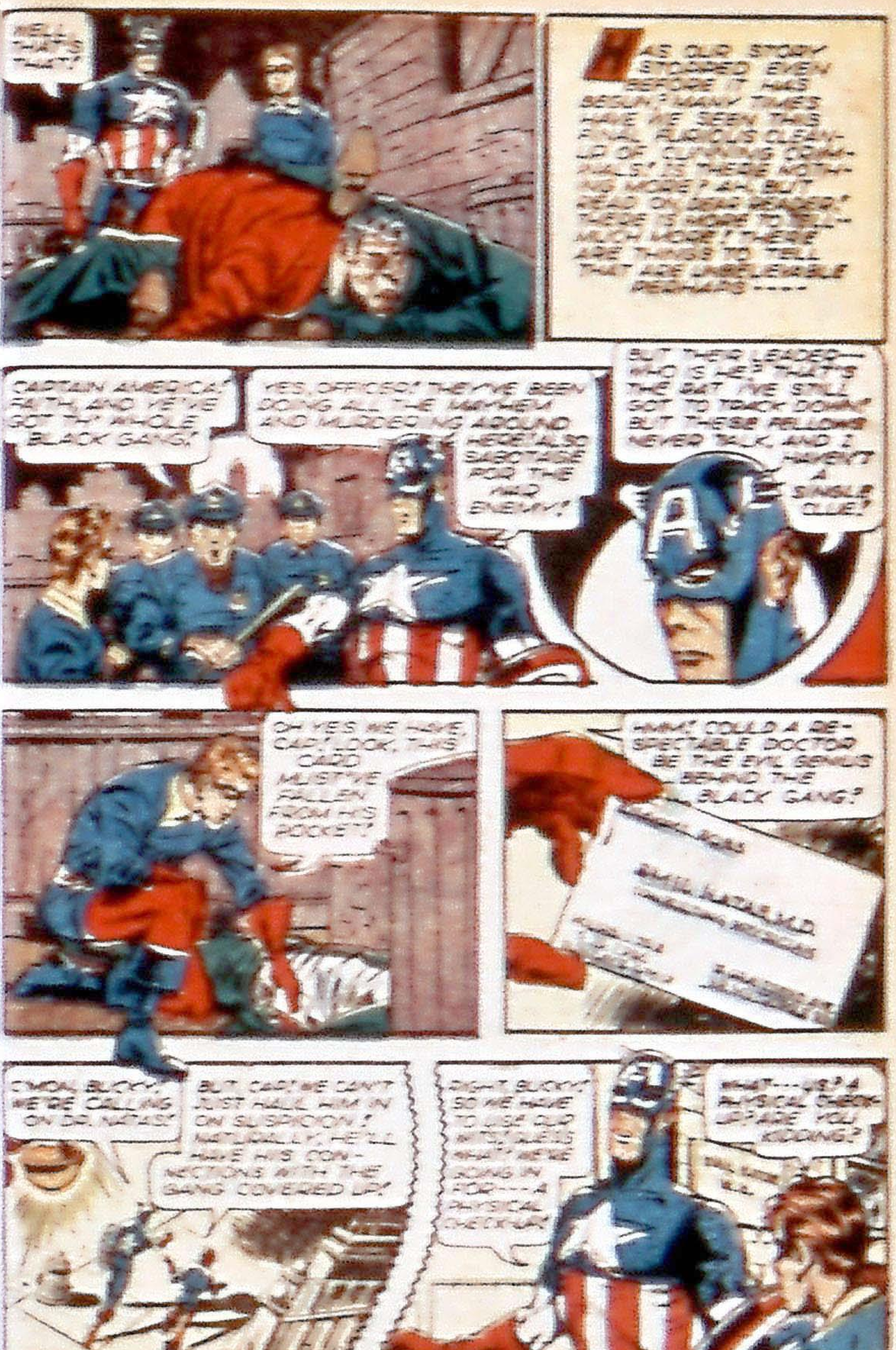
"Well, I . . . I don't like to pat myself on the back. But it wasn't bad. Not bad at all. Oh . . ." He hesitated, grinning. "Maybe it was the guy who sang it. Anyhow that morning I decided I was too good a composer to kick the bucket. The world's gonna need song writers after the war. And I'm gonna be one of 'em!"

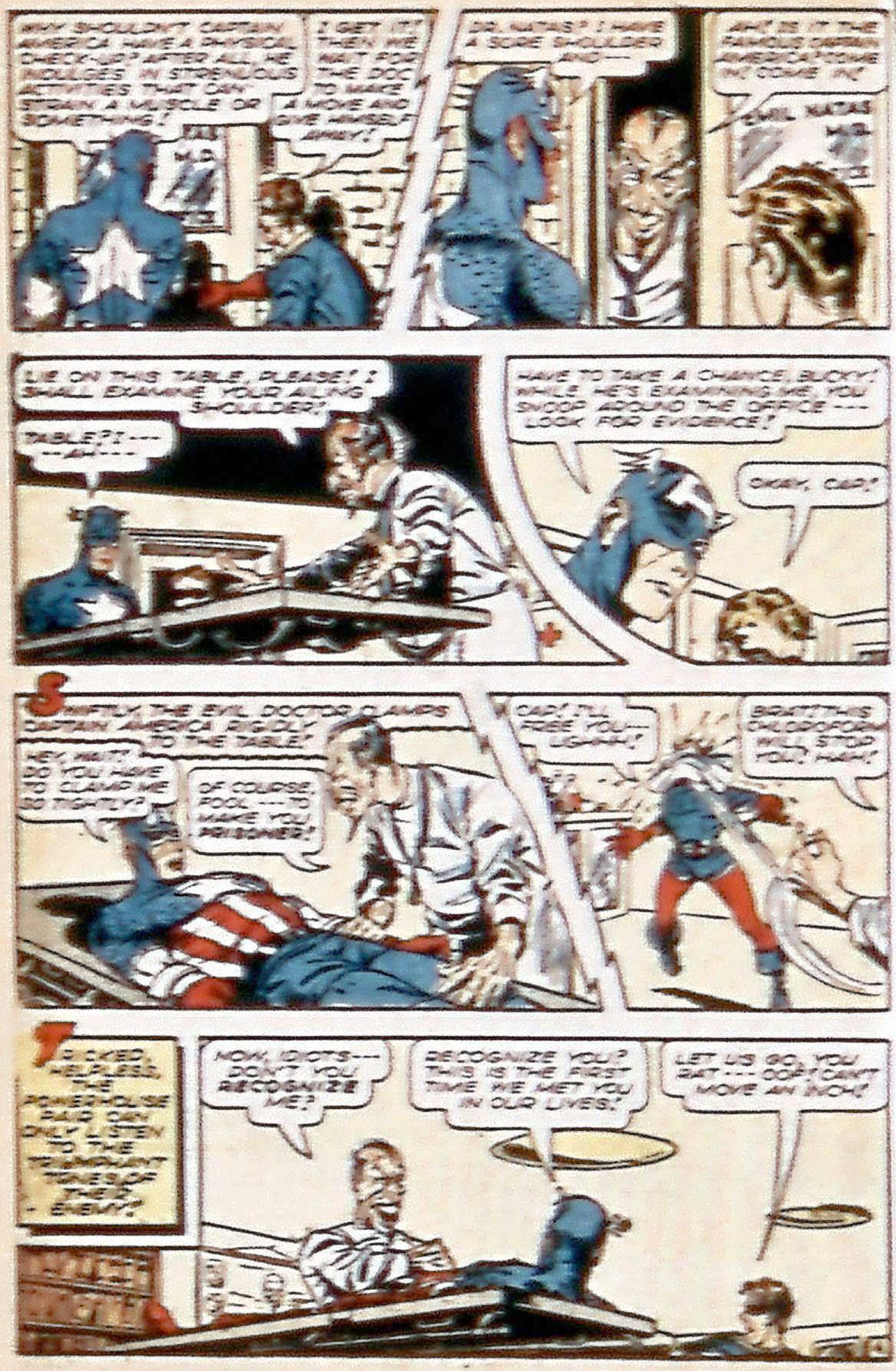
THE END

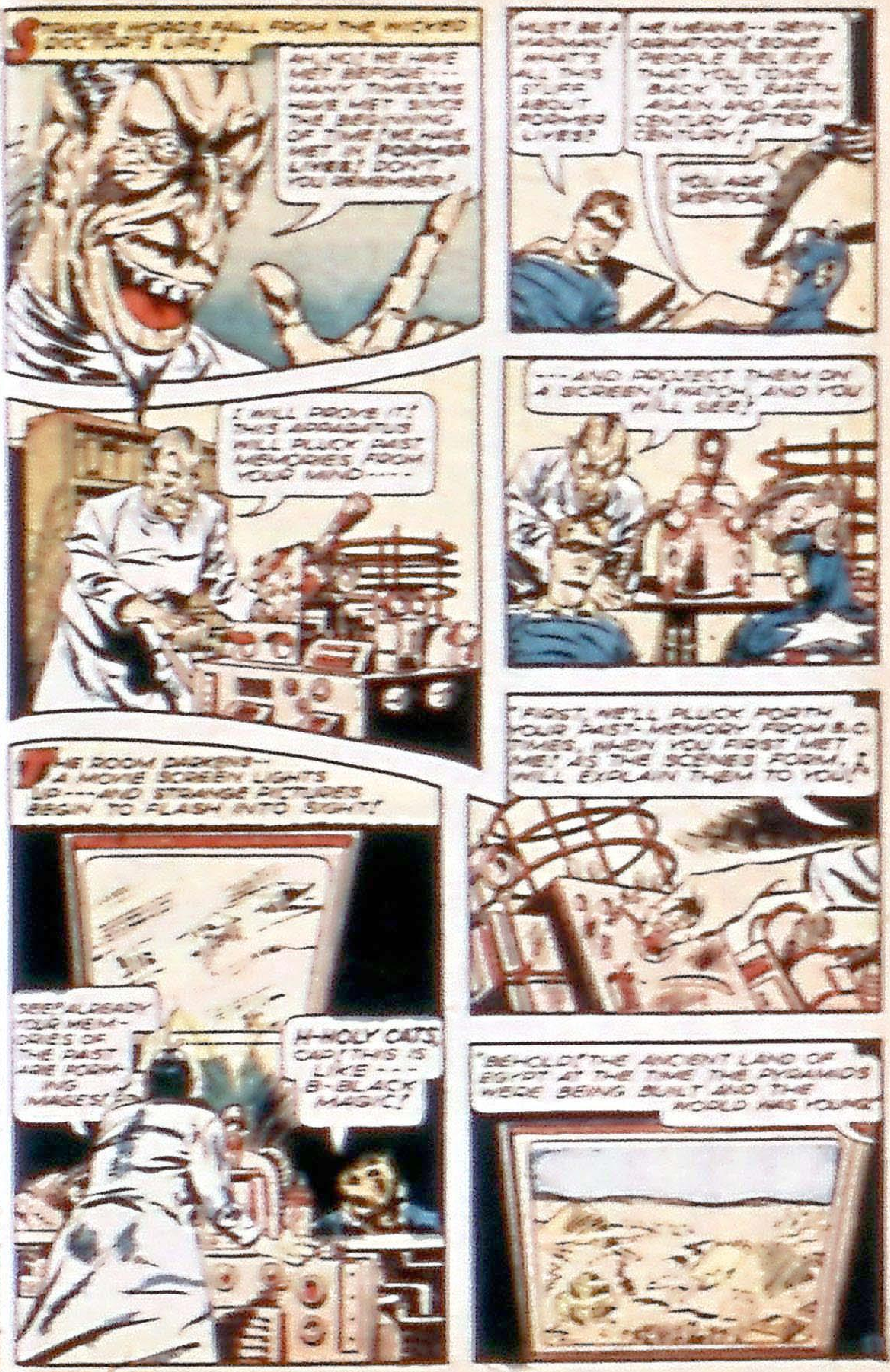
CAPTAIN AMERICA Fights "THE PERIL OF THE PAST!"

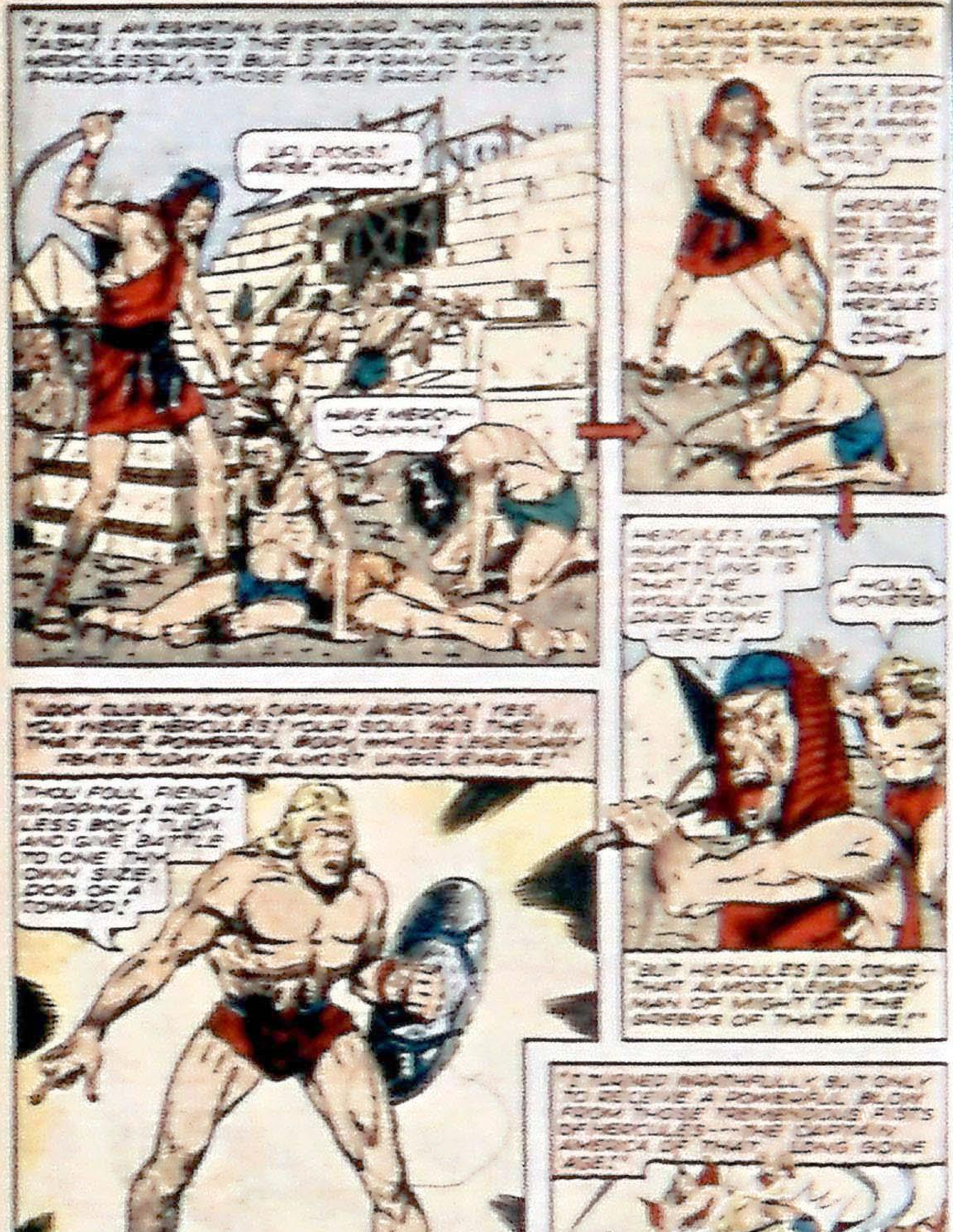

IS THE THEORY OF REINCARNATION TRUE? DOES A SOUL COME BACK TO EARTH AGAIN AND AGAIN? IS OUR PRESENT LIFE ONLY ONE OF MANY IN THE PAST—AND THE FAR FUTURE? MIND-STAGGERING THOUGHTS! AND EVEN CAPTAIN AMERICA COULD NOT PIN DOWN THE FINAL ANSWER AS HE BATTLED THE EVIL DR. NATAS, WHO CLAIMED TO BE OUT OF THE PAST!!
ART WORK BY SYD SHORES AND VINCE ALASCIA

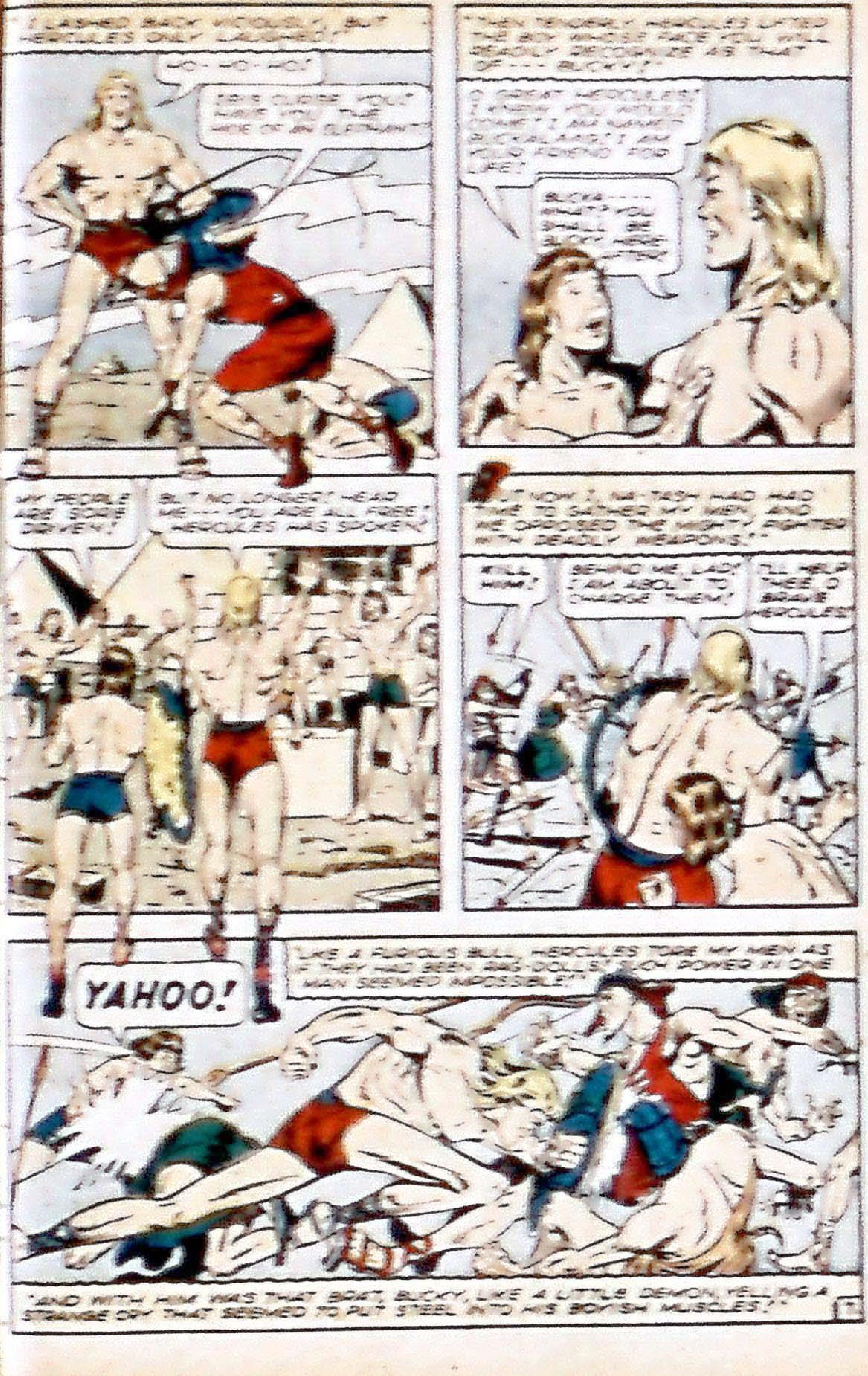

TIME... PRESENT. PLACE... A DARK ALLEY. SCENE... MIGHTY CAPTAIN AMERICA IN ACTION!
GUESS FATE CAUGHT UP WITH YOU AT LAST!
AND WHERE THERE'S CAPTAIN AMERICA THERE'S BUCKY NOT FAR BEHIND!
CHIN UP, FELLA!
YAROO!!
IT IS THEIR USUAL SOFTENING UP PROCESS AND THEN TOGETHER THEY CHARGE THE FOE, LIKE TWO HUMAN BATTERING RAMS!
FLYING FISTS THUD WITH UNPARALLELED POWER!
THERE IS ALWAYS A MOMENT OF DANGER!
CAP! LOOKOUT! A SUB-MACHINE GUN---!
I'LL CHOP YA DOWN, SMARTY!
BUT WITH TRIGGER-FAST REFLEXES, CAP WARDS OFF THE LEADEN HAIL WITH HIS SHIELD!
STOP! STOP! YA CAN'T KEEP COMIN' AT ME--!
HAPPY LANDING!
WHAM!

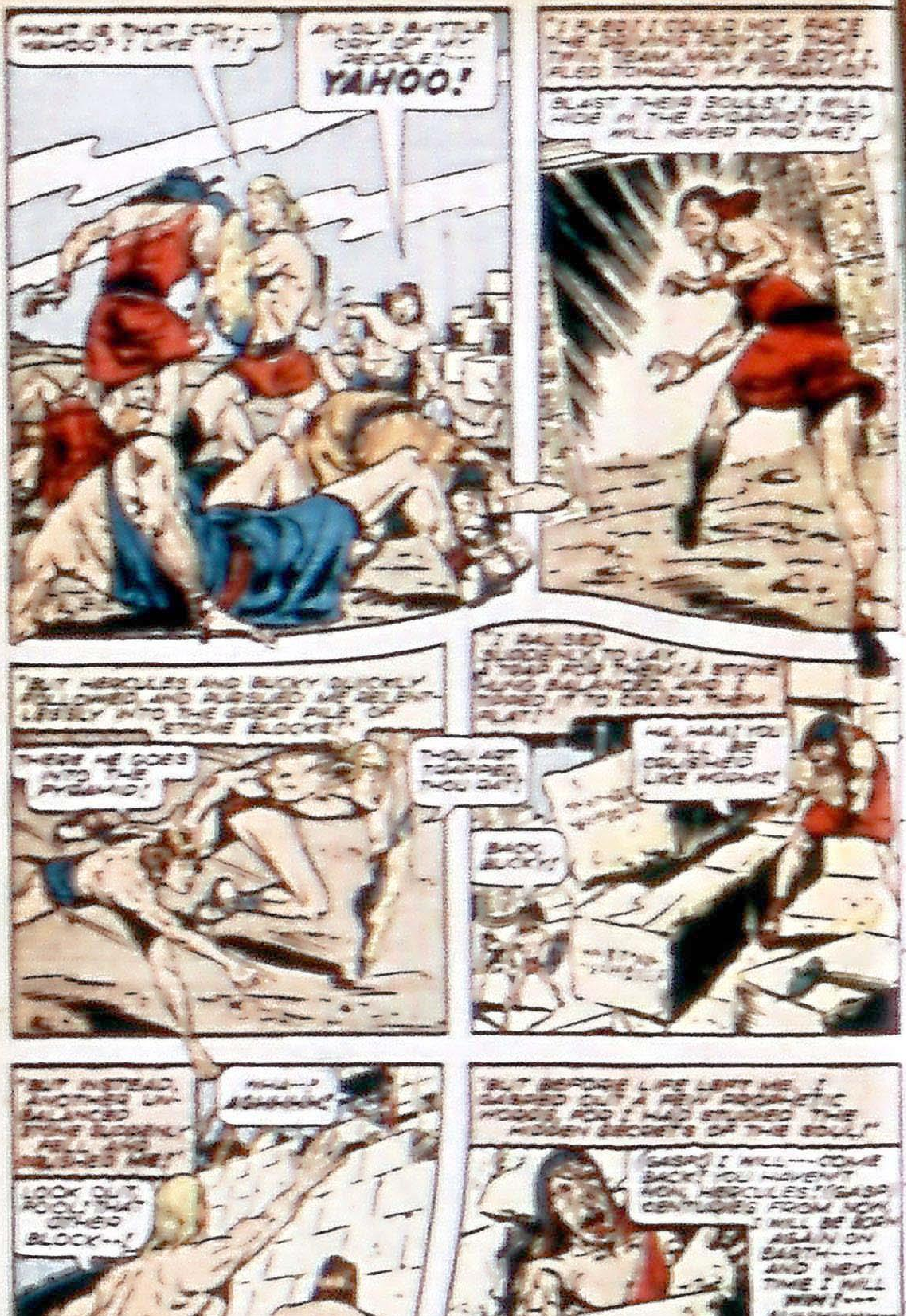

WELL, THAT'S THAT!
HAS OUR STORY STOPPED EVEN BEFORE IT HAS BEGUN? MANY TIMES HAVE WE SEEN THIS FINAL FURIOUS CLEAN-UP OF CUTTHROAT DOWNFALLS! IS THERE NOTHING MORE? AH, BUT READ ON, DEAR READER! THERE IS MORE TO TELL— MUCH MORE! THERE ARE THINGS TO TELL THAT ARE UNBELIEVABLE PERHAPS----
CAPTAIN AMERICA! FAITH, AND YE'VE GOT TH' WHOLE BLACK GANG!
YES, OFFICER! THEY'VE BEEN DOING ALL THE MAYHEM AND MURDERING AROUND HERE! ALSO SABOTAGE FOR THE NAZI ENEMY!
BUT THEIR LEADER— WHO IS HE? THAT'S THE RAT I'VE STILL GOT TO TRACK DOWN! BUT THESE FELLOWS NEVER TALK, AND I HAVEN'T A SINGLE CLUE!
OH YES WE HAVE, CAP! LOOK, THIS CARD MUST'VE FALLEN FROM HIS POCKET!
HMM! COULD A RESPECTABLE DOCTOR BE THE EVIL GENIUS BEHIND THE BLACK GANG?
C'MON, BUCKY! WE'RE CALLING ON DR. NATAS!
BUT, CAP! WE CAN'T JUST HAUL HIM IN ON SUSPICION! NATURALLY, HE'LL HAVE HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE GANG COVERED UP!
RIGHT, BUCKY! SO WE HAVE TO USE OUR WITS! GUESS WHAT WE'RE GOING IN FOR--- A PHYSICAL CHECKUP!
WHAT--- US? A PHYSICAL CHECK-UP? ARE YOU KIDDING?

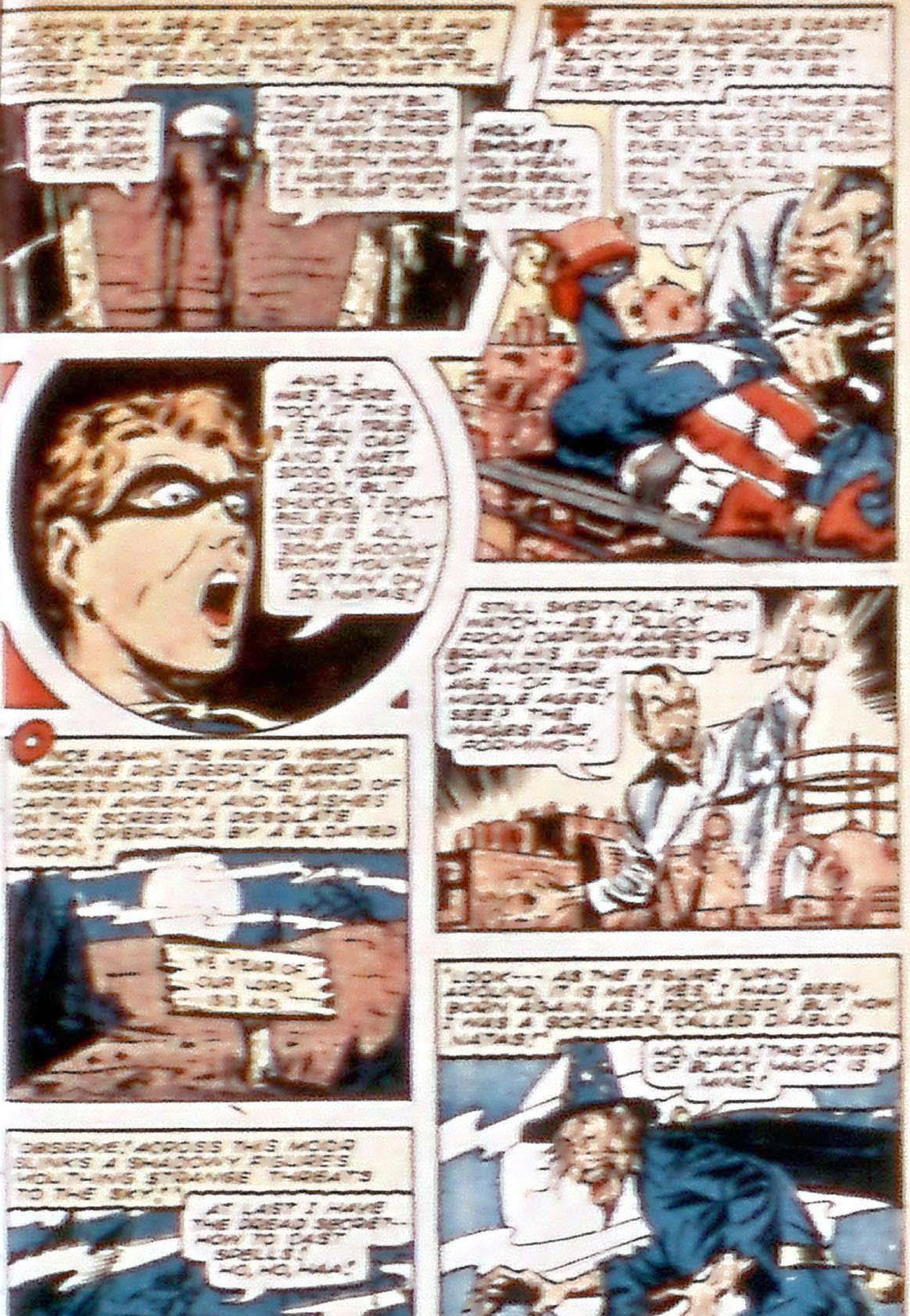

WHY SHOULDN'T CAPTAIN AMERICA HAVE A PHYSICAL CHECK-UP? AFTER ALL, HE INDULGES IN STRENUOUS ACTIVITIES THAT CAN STRAIN A MUSCLE OR SOMETHING!
I GET IT! THEN WE WAIT FOR THE DOC TO MAKE A MOVE AND GIVE HIMSELF AWAY!
DR. NATAS? I HAVE A SORE SHOULDER AND—
AH! IS IT THE FAMOUS CAPTAIN AMERICA? COME IN! COME IN!
EMIL NATAS M.D.
LIE ON THIS TABLE, PLEASE! I SHALL EXAMINE YOUR AILING SHOULDER!
TABLE?! --- --AH---
HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE, BUCKY! WHILE HE'S EXAMINING ME, YOU SNOOP AROUND THE OFFICE --- LOOK FOR EVIDENCE!
OKAY, CAP!
SWIFTLY, THE EVIL DOCTOR CLAMPS CAPTAIN AMERICA RIGIDLY TO THE TABLE!
HEY, WAIT! DO YOU HAVE TO CLAMP ME SO TIGHTLY?
OF COURSE, FOOL --- TO MAKE YOU PRISONER!
CAP! I'LL FREE YOU— UGHHH!
BRAT! THIS CHLOROFORM WILL STOP YOU! HAH!
TRICKED, HELPLESS, THE POWERHOUSE PAIR CAN ONLY LISTEN TO THE TRIUMPHANT TONES OF THEIR ENEMY!
NOW, IDIOTS--- DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
RECOGNIZE YOU? THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE MET YOU IN OUR LIVES!
LET US GO, YOU RAT --- CAP! I CAN'T MOVE AN INCH!

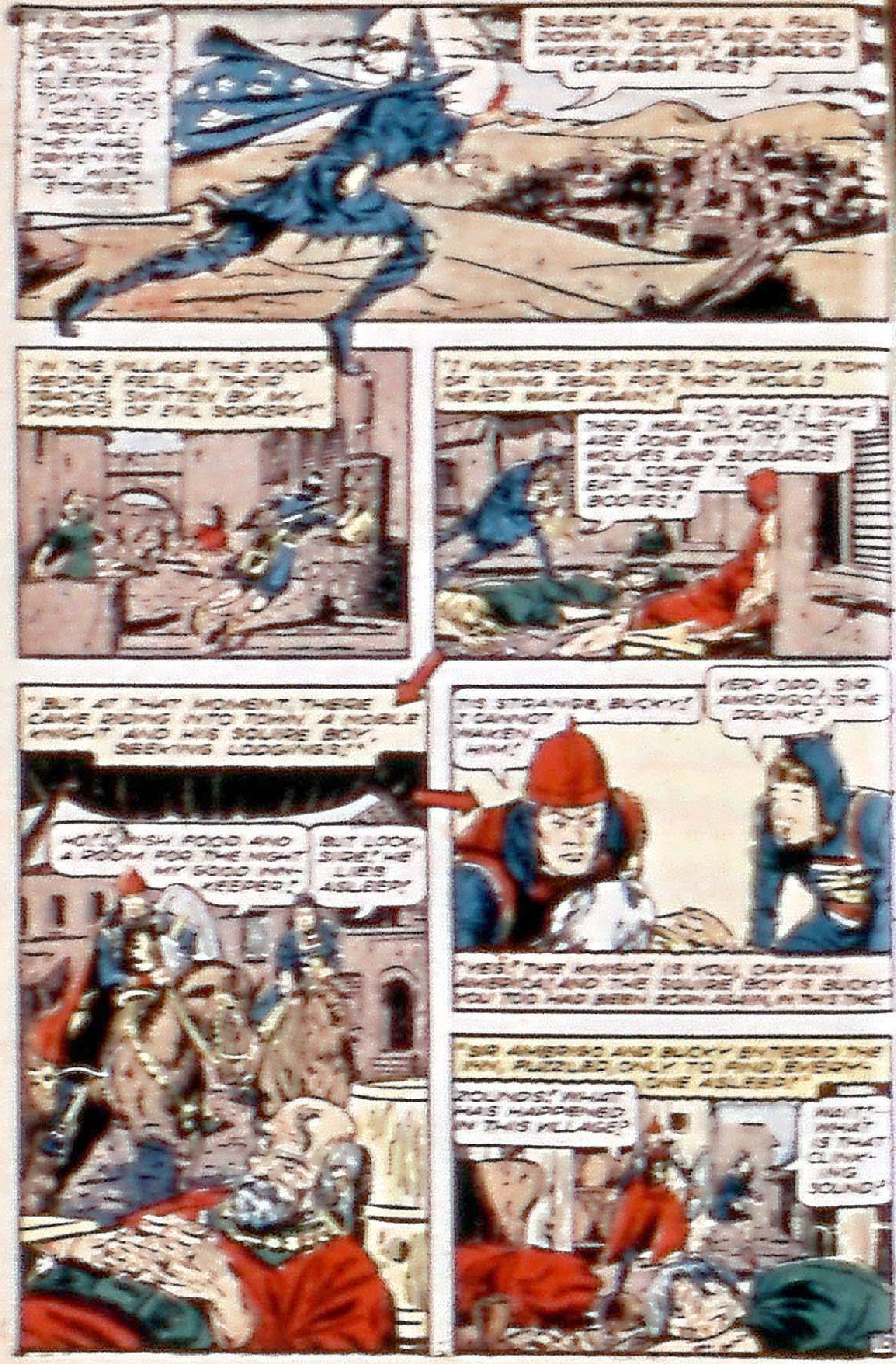

STRANGE WORDS FALL FROM THE WICKED DOCTOR'S LIPS!
AH, YES! WE HAVE MET BEFORE--- MANY TIMES! WE HAVE MET SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME! WE HAVE MET IN FORMER LIVES! DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
MUST BE A MADMAN! WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT FORMER LIVES?
HE MEANS--- REINCARNATION! SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT YOU COME BACK TO EARTH AGAIN AND AGAIN CENTURY AFTER CENTURY!
YOU ARE SKEPTICAL!
I WILL PROVE IT! THIS APPARATUS WILL PLUCK PAST MEMORIES FROM YOUR MIND----
---AND PROJECT THEM ON A SCREEN! WATCH, AND YOU WILL SEE!
THE ROOM DARKENS--- A MOVIE SCREEN LIGHTS UP---AND STRANGE PICTURES BEGIN TO FLASH INTO SIGHT!
SEE! ALREADY YOUR MEMORIES OF THE PAST ARE FORMING IMAGES!
H-HOLY CATS, CAP! THIS IS LIKE--- B-BLACK MAGIC!
"FIRST, WE'LL PLUCK FORTH YOUR PAST-MEMORY FROM B.C. TIMES, WHEN YOU FIRST MET ME! AS THE SCENES FORM, I WILL EXPLAIN THEM TO YOU!
"BEHOLD! THE ANCIENT LAND OF EGYPT AT THE TIME THE PYRAMIDS WERE BEING BUILT AND THE WORLD WAS YOUNG!

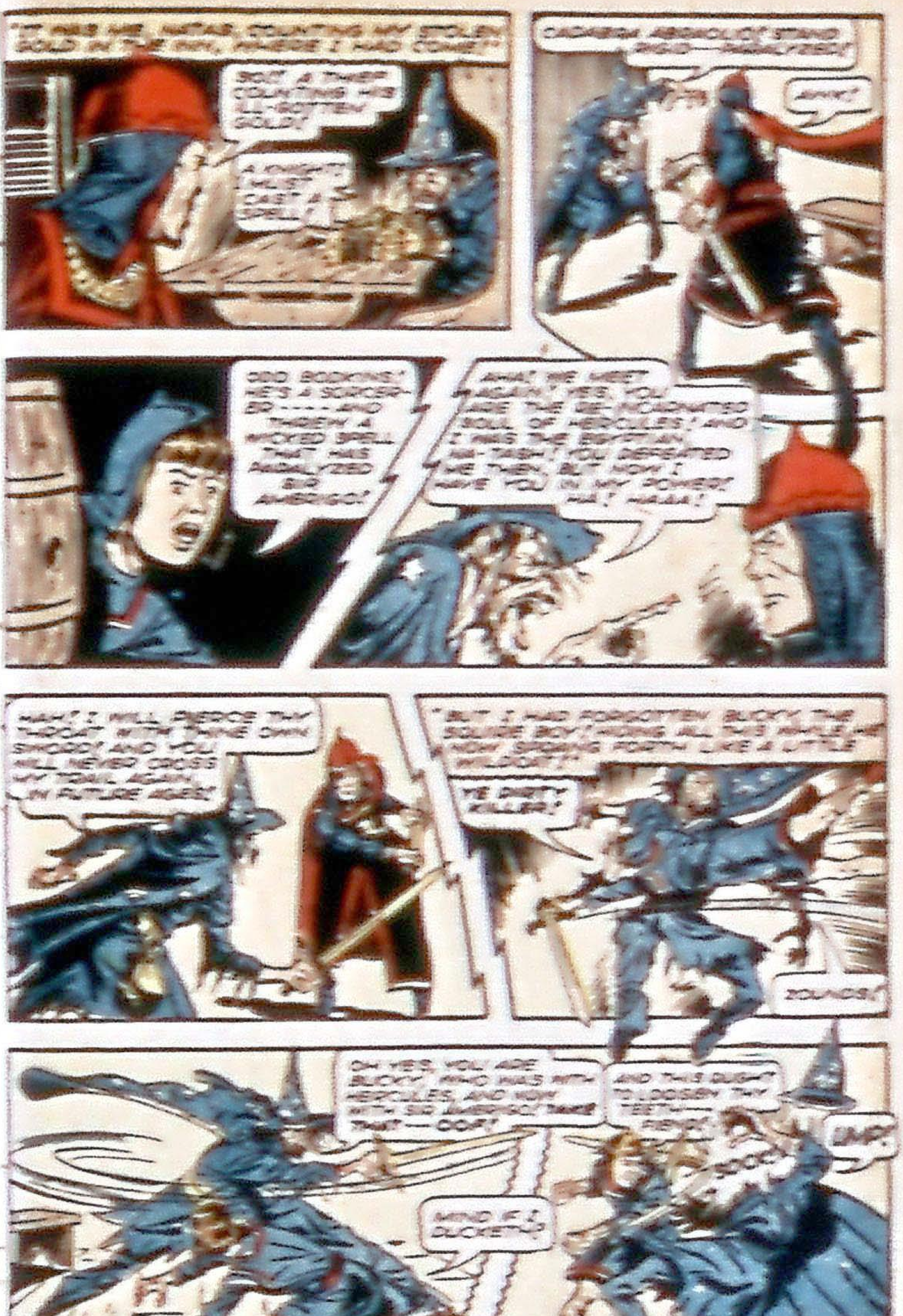

"I WAS AN EGYPTIAN OVERLORD THEN, AHAD NA TASH! I WHIPPED THE STUBBORN SLAVES MERCILESSLY, TO BUILD A PYRAMID FOR MY PHAROAH! AH, THOSE WERE GREAT TIMES!"
UP, DOGS! ARISE, WORK!
HAVE MERCY— —OHHHH!
"I PARTICULARLY DELIGHTED IN LASHING SMALL CHILDREN [illegible] IN THEIR LAZ- [illegible]
LITTLE SCUM! CAN'T I EVER GET A [illegible] OUT OF YOU?
HERCULES! [illegible] COME TO DEFEND [illegible] IN A DREAM HERCULES WILL COME!
HERCULES, BAH! WHAT CHILDISH PRATTLING IS THAT! HE WOULD NOT DARE COME HERE!
HOLD, MONSTER!
"LOOK CLOSELY NOW, CAPTAIN AMERICA! YES, YOU WERE HERCULES! YOUR SOUL WAS THEN IN THAT FINE POWERFUL BODY WHOSE LEGENDARY FEATS TODAY ARE ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE!"
THOU FOUL FIEND! WHIPPING A HELPLESS BOY! TURN AND GIVE BATTLE TO ONE THY OWN SIZE, DOG OF A COWARD!
"BUT HERCULES DID COME— THAT ALMOST LEGENDARY MAN OF MIGHT OF THE GREEK'S OF THAT TIME!"
"I TURNED WRATHFULLY BUT ONLY TO RECEIVE A POWERFUL BLOW FROM THOSE TREMENDOUS FISTS OF HERCULES—THE CAPTAIN AMERICA OF THAT LONG GONE AGE!"

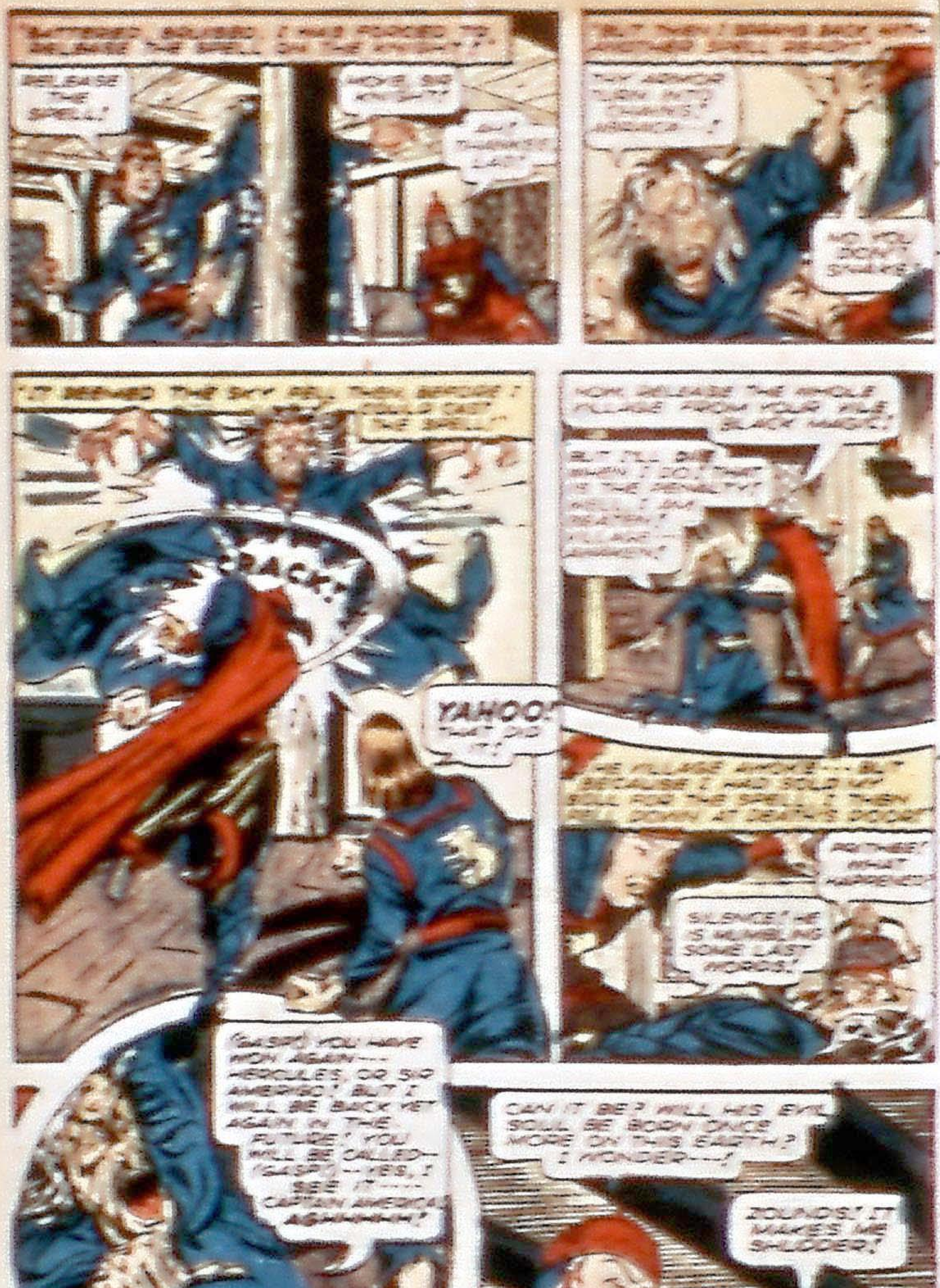

"I LASHED BACK VICIOUSLY, BUT HERCULES ONLY LAUGHED!"
HO-HO-HO!
THIS QUIRT? YOU! HAVE YOU THE HIDE OF AN ELEPHANT?
"THEN TENDERLY HERCULES LIFTED THE BOY WHOSE FACE YOU WILL READILY RECOGNIZE AS THAT OF --- BUCKY!"
O GREAT HERCULES! I KNEW YOU WOULD COME! I AM NAMED BUCKALAAD! I AM YOUR FRIEND FOR LIFE!
BUCKA---- WHAT? YOU SHALL BE BUCKY HEREAFTER!
MY PEOPLE ARE SORE DRIVEN!
BUT NO LONGER! HEAR ME--- YOU ARE ALL FREE! HERCULES HAS SPOKEN!
"BUT NOW I, NA-TASH HAD HAD TIME TO GATHER MY MEN, AND WE OPPOSED THE MIGHTY FIGHTER WITH DEADLY WEAPONS!"
KILL HIM!
BEHIND ME, LADY! I AM ABOUT TO CHARGE THEM!
I'LL HELP THEE, O BRAVE HERCULES!
"LIKE A FURIOUS BULL, HERCULES TORE MY MEN AS IF THEY HAD BEEN RAG-DOLLS! SUCH POWER IN ONE MAN SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE!"
YAHOO!
"AND WITH HIM WAS THAT BRAT, BUCKY, LIKE A LITTLE DEMON, YELLING A STRANGE CRY THAT SEEMED TO PUT STEEL INTO HIS BOYISH MUSCLES!"
7

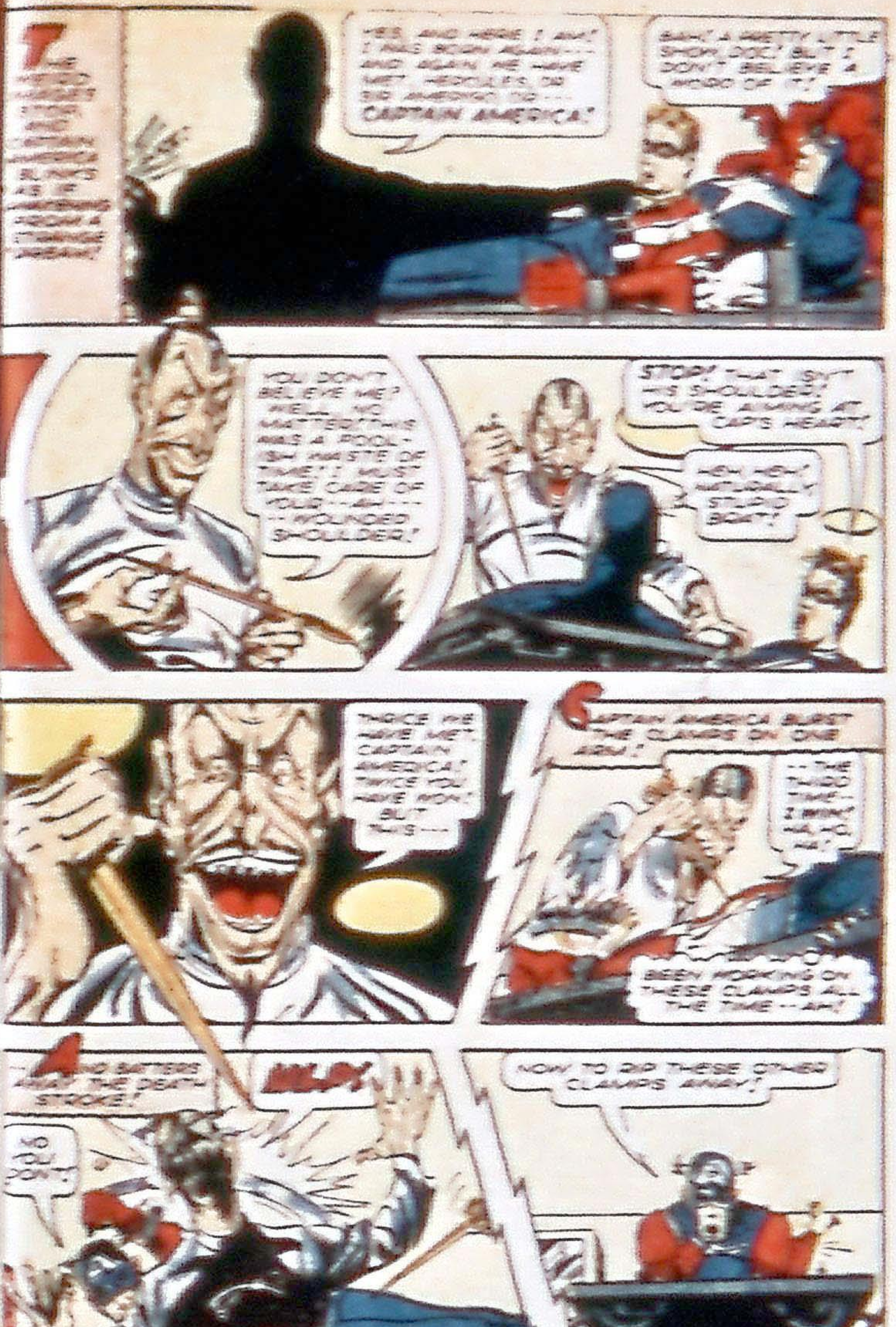

WHAT IS THAT CRY--- YAHOO? I LIKE IT!
AN OLD BATTLE CRY OF MY PEOPLE!--- YAHOO!
"I FLED! I COULD NOT FACE THE DEADLY FURY OF THAT TWIN TEAM, MAN AND BOY! I FLED TOWARD MY PYRAMID!"
BLAST THEIR SOULS! I WILL HIDE IN THE PYRAMID! THEY WILL NEVER FIND ME!
"BUT HERCULES AND BUCKY QUICKLY FOLLOWED AND CHASED ME RELENTLESSLY INTO THE GREAT PILE OF STONE BLOCKS!"
THERE HE GOES INTO THE PYRAMID!
THOU ART TRAPPED, THOU RAT!
"I PAUSED SUDDENLY TO LAY A TRAP FOR THEM! A STONE HUNG BALANCED AND I MOVED IT TO CRUSH THEM FLAT!"
HA, HA! YOU WILL BE CRUSHED LIKE WORMS!
BACK, BUCKY!
"BUT INSTEAD, ANOTHER UNBALANCED STONE SUDDENLY FELL AND CRUSHED ME!"
WHA--? AGGHHH!
LOOK OUT, FOOL! THAT OTHER BLOCK--!
"BUT BEFORE LIFE LEFT ME, I GASPED OUT A FEW PROPHETIC WORDS, FOR I HAD STUDIED THE HIDDEN SECRETS OF THE SOUL!"
GASP! I WILL---COME BACK! YOU HAVEN'T WON, HERCULES! GASP! CENTURIES FROM NOW I WILL BE BORN AGAIN ON EARTH--- AND NEXT TIME I WILL WIN!--- AHHHHHH

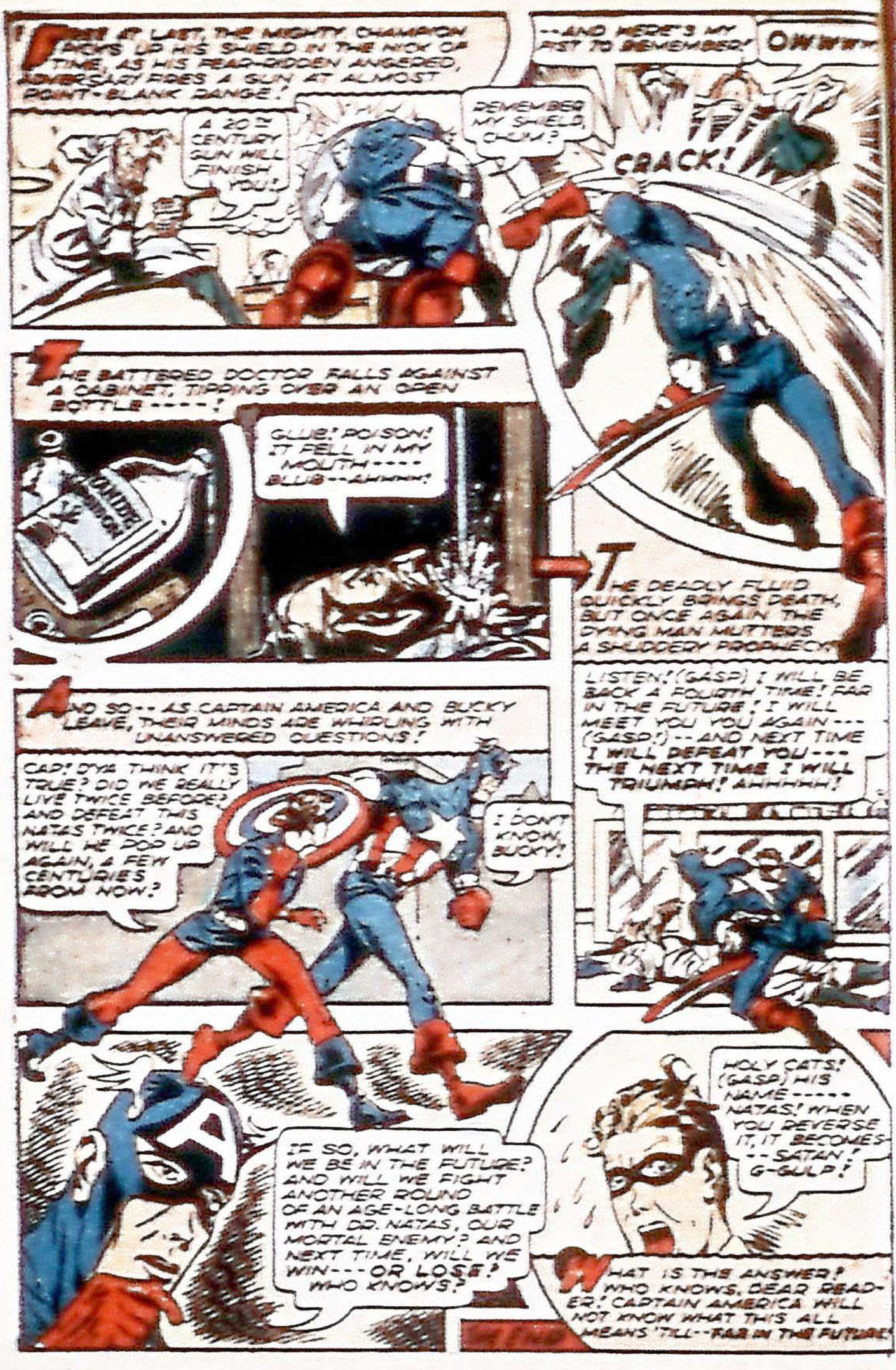

[illegible] MY DEAD BODY HERCULES AND [illegible] STRODE FORTH INTO THE WIDE WORLD -- AND HOW MANY ADVENTURES THEY HAD BEFORE THEY TOO MET THE GRAVE!
HE CANNOT BE BORN AGAIN, CAN HE, HERC?
TRUST NOT! BUT [illegible] ARE MANY OTHER EVIL PERSONS ON EARTH WHOM I HAVE VOWED TO STAMP OUT!
THE WEIRD IMAGES CEASE! CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY OF THE PRESENT RUB THEIR EYES IN BEWILDERMENT!
HOLY SMOKE! YOU MEAN I WAS REALLY HERCULES IN THAT TIME?
YES! TIMES AND BODIES MAY CHANGE, BUT THE SOUL LIVES ON! EVERY HOLY SOUL FOUGHT WHAT YOU CALL EVIL THEN -- AND TODAY IT'S THE SAME!
AND I WAS THERE TOO! IF THIS IS ALL TRUE, THEN CAP AND I MET 3000 YEARS AGO! BUT SHUCKS, I DON'T BELIEVE IT -- THIS IS ALL SOME GOOFY SHOW YOU'RE PUTTIN' ON, DR. NATAS!
STILL SKEPTICAL? THEN WATCH -- AS I PLUCK FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA'S BRAIN HIS MEMORIES OF ANOTHER AGE -- OF THE MIDDLE AGES! SEE? THE IMAGES ARE FORMING--!
ONCE AGAIN THE WEIRD MEMORY-MACHINE DIGS DEEPLY BURIED IMPRESSIONS FROM THE MIND OF CAPTAIN AMERICA AND FLASHES ON THE SCREEN A DESOLATE MOOR, OVERHUNG BY A BLOATED MOON!
YE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1513 A.D.
"LOOK -- AS THE FIGURE TURNS AROUND, IT'S ME! YES, I HAD BEEN BORN AGAIN, AS I PROMISED! BUT NOW I WAS A SORCERER CALLED DIABLO NATAS!"
HO, HAAA! THE POWER OF BLACK MAGIC IS MINE!
OBSERVE! ACROSS THIS MOOR SLINKS A SHADOWY FIGURE, HOWLING STRANGE THREATS TO THE SKY!
AT LAST I HAVE THE DREAD SECRET -- HOW TO CAST SPELLS! HO, HO, HAA!


"I CAST A FRIGHTFUL SPELL OVER A SMALL, SLEEPING TOWN, FOR I HATED ITS PEOPLE! THEY HAD DRIVEN ME OUT WITH STONES!"
SLEEP! YOU WILL ALL FALL DOWN IN SLEEP, AND NEVER WAKEN AGAIN! ABRAHOLID CADABRA KOS!
"IN THE VILLAGE THE GOOD PEOPLE FELL IN THEIR TRACKS, SMITTEN BY MY POWERS OF EVIL SORCERY!"
"I WANDERED SATISFIED THROUGH A TOWN OF LIVING DEAD, FOR THEY WOULD NEVER WAKE AGAIN!"
HO, HAA! I TAKE THEIR WEALTH FOR THEY ARE DONE WITH IT! THE WOLVES AND BUZZARDS WILL COME TO EAT THEIR BODIES!
"BUT AT THAT MOMENT THERE CAME RIDING INTO TOWN A NOBLE KNIGHT AND HIS SQUIRE BOY, SEEKING LODGINGS!"
HO! I WISH FOOD AND A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT, MY GOOD INN-KEEPER!
BUT LOOK, SIRE! HE LIES ASLEEP!
'TIS STRANGE, BUCKY! I CANNOT WAKEN HIM!
VERY ODD, SIR AMERIGO! IS HE DRUNK?
"YES! THE KNIGHT IS YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA! AND THE SQUIRE BOY IS BUCKY! YOU TOO HAD BEEN BORN AGAIN, IN THIS TIME!"
"SIR AMERIGO AND BUCKY ENTERED THE INN, PUZZLED ONLY TO FIND EVERY-ONE ASLEEP!"
ZOUNDS! WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THIS VILLAGE?
WAIT-- WHAT IS THAT CLINK-ING SOUND?


"IT WAS HE, MIDAS, COUNTING MY STOLEN GOLD IN THE INN, WHERE I HAD COME!"
BUT A THIEF COUNTING HIS ILL-GOTTEN GOLD!
A KNIGHT! I MUST CAST A SPELL!
CADABRA ABRACOLA! STAND RIGID — PARALYZED!
AWK!
ODD BODKINS! HE'S A SORCERER---- AND THREW A WICKED SPELL THAT HAS PARALYZED SIR AMERIGO!
AHA! WE MEET AGAIN! YES, YOU ARE THE RE-INCARNATED SOUL OF HERCULES! AND I WAS THE EGYPTIAN HA-TASH! YOU DEFEATED ME THEN, BUT NOW I HAVE YOU IN MY POWER! HA! HAAA!
HAH! I WILL PIERCE THY THROAT WITH THINE OWN SWORD! AND YOU WILL NEVER CROSS MY TRAIL AGAIN, IN FUTURE AGES!
"BUT I HAD FORGOTTEN BUCKY, THE SQUIRE BOY, HIDING ALL THIS WHILE. HE NOW SPRANG FORTH LIKE A LITTLE WILDCAT!"
YE DIRTY KILLER!
ZOUNDS!
OH YES, YOU ARE BUCKY, WHO WAS WITH HERCULES, AND NOW WITH SIR AMERIGO! TAKE THAT — OOF!
MIND IF I DUCKETH?
AND THIS OUGHT TO LOOSEN THY TEETH, FIEND!
UMF!

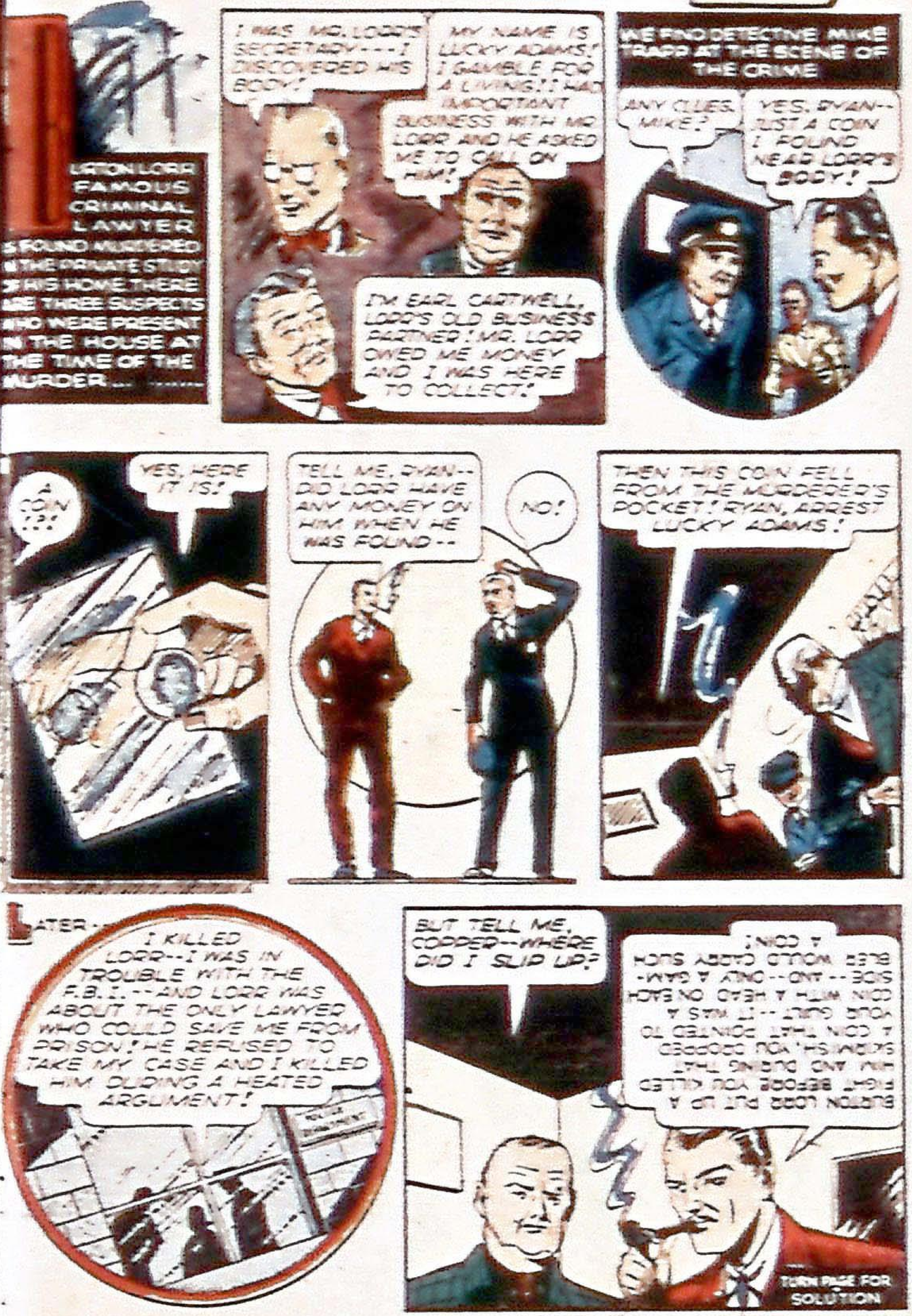

BATTERED, BRUISED, I WAS FORCED TO RELEASE THE SPELL ON THE KNIGHT—
RELEASE THE SPELL!
MOVE, SIR KNIGHT!
BUT THANKEE, LAD!
BUT THEN I SPRANG BACK WITH ANOTHER SPELL READY
NO, YOU DON'T, SNAKE!
IT SEEMED THE SKY FELL THEN, BEFORE I COULD CAST THE SPELL!
CRACK!
YAHOO! THAT DID IT!
NOW, RELEASE THE WHOLE VILLAGE FROM YOUR VILE BLACK MAGIC!
BUT I'LL DIE WHEN I DO THAT!
THE VILLAGE AWOKE—BUT BECAUSE I HAD SOLD MY SOUL FOR THE SPELL, I THEN FELL DOWN AT DEATH'S DOOR!
PRITHEE! WHAT HAPPENED?
SILENCE! HE IS MUMBLING SOME LAST WORDS!
(GASP) YOU HAVE WON AGAIN— HERCULES, OR SIR AMERICO! BUT I WILL BE BACK YET AGAIN IN THE FUTURE! YOU WILL BE CALLED— (GASP) —YES, I SEE IT— CAPTAIN AMERICA! AGHHHHH!
CAN IT BE? WILL HIS EVIL SOUL BE BORN ONCE MORE ON THIS EARTH? I WONDER—!
ZOUNDS! IT MAKES ME SHUDDER!


THE WEIRD IMAGE FADES AND CAPTAIN AMERICA BLINKS AS IF AWAKENING FROM A STRANGE DREAM!
YES, AND HERE I AM! I WAS BORN AGAIN--- AND AGAIN WE HAVE MET, HERCULES, OR SIR AMERICA, OR--- CAPTAIN AMERICA!
SAY! A PRETTY LITTLE SHOW, DOC! BUT I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? WELL, NO MATTER! THIS WAS A FOOLISH WASTE OF TIME! I MUST TAKE CARE OF YOUR---AH--- ---WOUNDED SHOULDER!
STOP! THAT ISN'T HIS SHOULDER! YOU'RE AIMING AT CAP'S HEART!
HEH HEH! NATURALLY, STUPID BOY!
THRICE WE HAVE MET, CAPTAIN AMERICA! TWICE YOU HAVE WON! BUT THIS---
CAPTAIN AMERICA BURST THE CLAMPS ON ONE ARM!
---THE THIRD TIME--- I WIN! HA, HO, HA!
[illegible] BEEN WORKING ON THESE CLAMPS ALL THE TIME--AH!
---AND BATTERS AWAY THE DEATH STROKE!
ULP!
NO YOU DON'T!
NOW TO RIP THESE OTHER CLAMPS AWAY!


FREE AT LAST, THE MIGHTY CHAMPION PICKS UP HIS SHIELD IN THE NICK OF TIME, AS HIS FEAR-RIDDEN ANGERED ADVERSARY FIRES A GUN AT ALMOST POINT-BLANK RANGE!
A 20TH CENTURY GUN WILL FINISH YOU!
REMEMBER MY SHIELD, CHUM?
--AND HERE'S MY FIST TO REMEMBER!
OWWW--
CRACK!
THE BATTERED DOCTOR FALLS AGAINST A CABINET, TIPPING OVER AN OPEN BOTTLE-----!
GLUB! POISON! IT FELL IN MY MOUTH---- BLUB--AHHHH!
THE DEADLY FLUID QUICKLY BRINGS DEATH, BUT ONCE AGAIN THE DYING MAN MUTTERS A SHUDDERY PROPHECY!
LISTEN! (GASP) I WILL BE BACK A FOURTH TIME! FAR IN THE FUTURE! I WILL MEET YOU YOU AGAIN--- (GASP!)--AND NEXT TIME I WILL DEFEAT YOU--- THE NEXT TIME I WILL TRIUMPH! AHHHHH!
AND SO--AS CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY LEAVE, THEIR MINDS ARE WHIRLING WITH UNANSWERED QUESTIONS!
CAP! D'YA THINK IT'S TRUE? DID WE REALLY LIVE TWICE BEFORE? AND DEFEAT THIS NATAS TWICE? AND WILL HE POP UP AGAIN, A FEW CENTURIES FROM NOW?
I DON'T KNOW, BUCKY!
IF SO, WHAT WILL WE BE IN THE FUTURE? AND WILL WE FIGHT ANOTHER ROUND OF AN AGE-LONG BATTLE WITH DR. NATAS, OUR MORTAL ENEMY? AND NEXT TIME, WILL WE WIN---OR LOSE? WHO KNOWS?
HOLY CATS! (GASP) HIS NAME-----NATAS! WHEN YOU REVERSE IT, IT BECOMES--SATAN! G-GULP!
WHAT IS THE ANSWER? WHO KNOWS, DEAR READER! CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL NOT KNOW WHAT THIS ALL MEANS 'TILL--FAR IN THE FUTURE!

LET'S PLAY DETECTIVE

THE MYSTERY OF THE COIN


BURTON LORR FAMOUS CRIMINAL LAWYER IS FOUND MURDERED IN THE PRIVATE STUDY OF HIS HOME. THERE ARE THREE SUSPECTS WHO WERE PRESENT IN THE HOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER.........
I WAS MR. LORR'S SECRETARY---I DISCOVERED HIS BODY!
MY NAME IS LUCKY ADAMS! I GAMBLE FOR A LIVING! I HAD IMPORTANT BUSINESS WITH MR. LORR AND HE ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM!
I'M EARL CARTWELL, LORR'S OLD BUSINESS PARTNER! MR. LORR OWED ME MONEY AND I WAS HERE TO COLLECT!
WE FIND DETECTIVE MIKE TRAPP AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME
ANY CLUES, MIKE?
YES, RYAN--JUST A COIN I FOUND NEAR LORR'S BODY!
A COIN!?!
YES, HERE IT IS!
TELL ME, RYAN--DID LORR HAVE ANY MONEY ON HIM WHEN HE WAS FOUND--
NO!
THEN THIS COIN FELL FROM THE MURDERER'S POCKET! RYAN, ARREST LUCKY ADAMS!
LATER--
I KILLED LORR--I WAS IN TROUBLE WITH THE F.B.I.--AND LORR WAS ABOUT THE ONLY LAWYER WHO COULD SAVE ME FROM PRISON! HE REFUSED TO TAKE MY CASE AND I KILLED HIM DURING A HEATED ARGUMENT!
BUT TELL ME, COPPER--WHERE DID I SLIP UP?
BURTON LORR PUT UP A FIGHT BEFORE YOU KILLED HIM AND DURING THAT SKIRMISH, YOU DROPPED A COIN THAT POINTED TO YOUR GUILT--IT WAS A COIN WITH A HEAD ON EACH SIDE--AND--ONLY A GAMBLER WOULD CARRY SUCH A COIN!
TURN PAGE FOR SOLUTION

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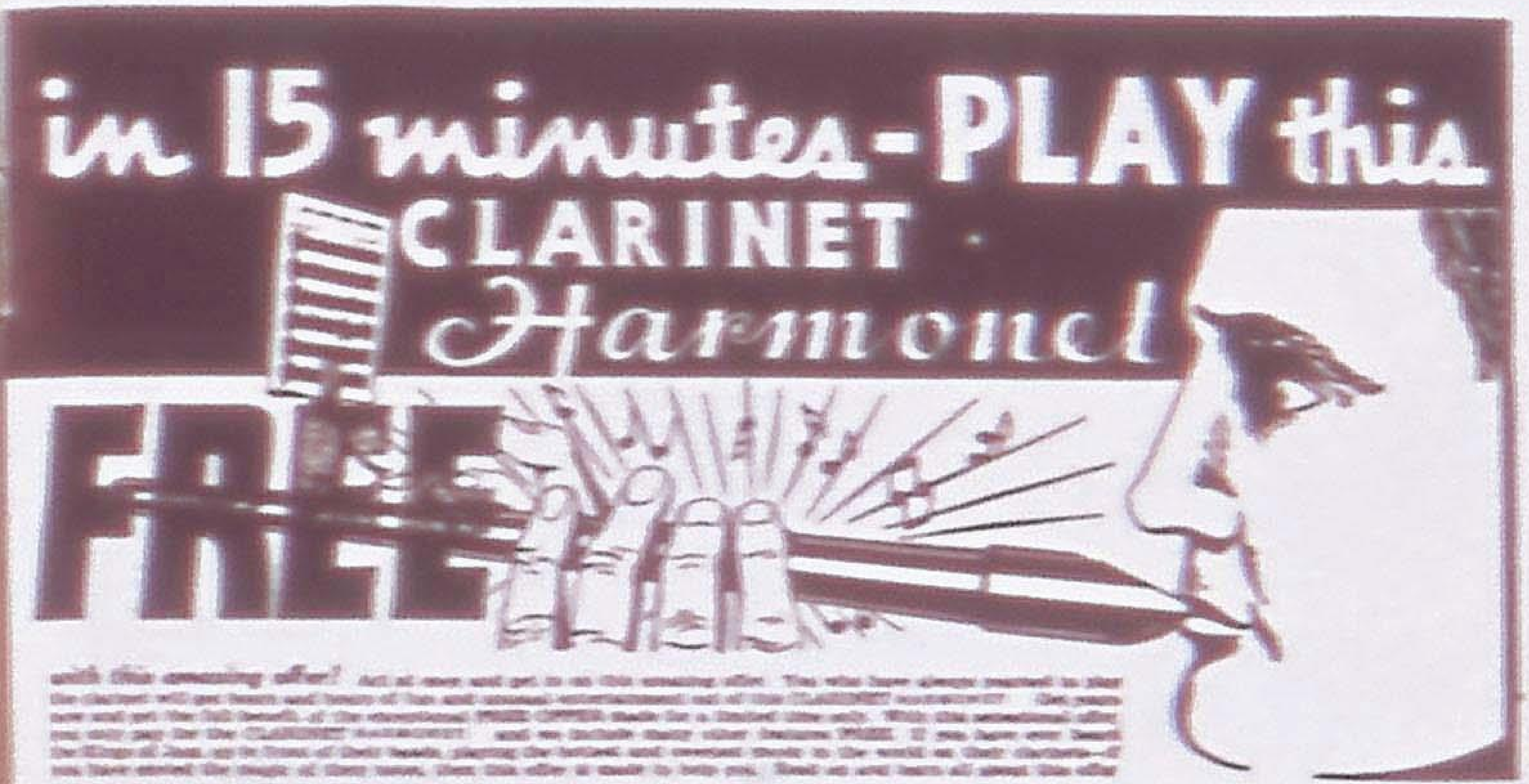

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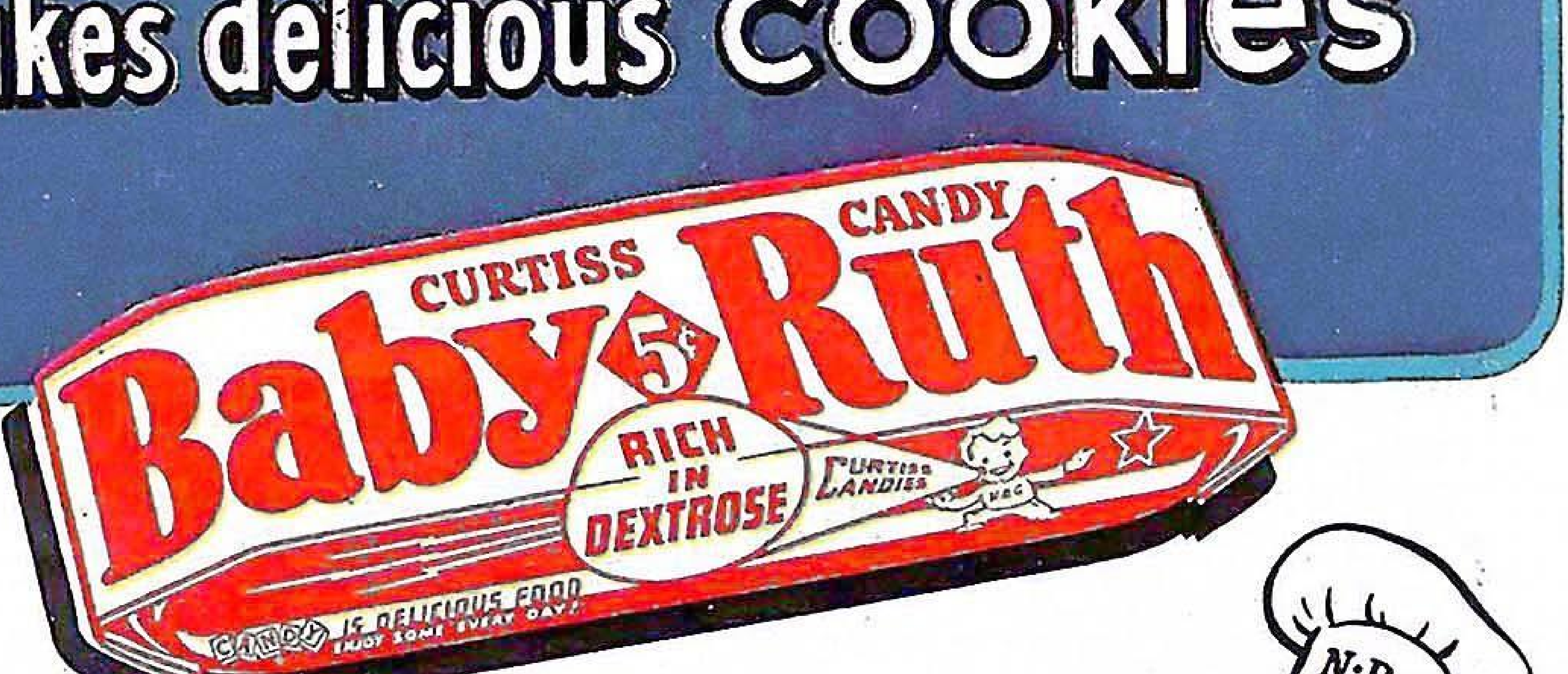
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